Roundup in 20 Metro barangays slammed

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Megawati ready to replace Wahid** WORLD / A12
- **Pope to visit Golan Heights** WORLD / A13
- **5 Sino 'shabu' smugglers killed** NEWS / A3
- **$500-M bond float set in July** BUSINESS / B1

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2001 ★★ 36 PAGES 2 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 149 ₱15

Erap, Velarde probed for fraud in land sale

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto has placed El Shaddai's Bro. Mike Velarde and Joseph Estrada under formal investigation in connection with the alleged irregularities surrounding the C-5 Link of the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway Project (MCTE).

ERAP/ A18

'Worst may not be over'

PNP dilemma: How to justify warrantless arrests of Lacson et al.

BY CARLITO PABLO, CHRISTINE HERRERA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE WORST may not be over despite the lifting Sunday of the declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila.

Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, commander of Task Force Libra, made this candid admission yesterday even as President Macapagal-Arroyo personally sent off at Camp Aguinaldo some of the military units that had earlier been assigned to augment the anti-coup unit.

Santiago said a "substantial number" of troops under the task force would remain on war footing to counter armed challenges against the Macapagal administration.

Sources said some 2,100 soldiers would remain in Metro Manila under the command of Task Force Libra.

Santiago said the threat to the administration would continue "so long as money is flowing and certain personalities are not yet accounted for."

It was an apparent reference to fugitives Sen. Gregorio Honasan and former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, and their associates in the military and police.

Asked if the worst had been seen with the violent May Day siege on Malacañang, Santiago said: "I cannot categorically state that although we are relatively peaceful."

He said the Armed Forces would continue to plan "on the pessimistic side" and prepare for the worst-case scenario.

Formed last April 26, Task Force Libra started with 2,000 men from various military service units. It was backed by helicopter gun ships, light tanks and armored units.

The task force was augmented in batches until it reached about 3,000 men, although no informa-

WORST/ A18

"MY HEROES," President Macapagal salutes military units that reinforced the anti-coup task force as she sends them off on Monday in Camp Aguinaldo back to their original areas of assignment. Flanking her are Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

JOAN BONDOC

Honasan 'seen' North and South

POLICE continued to search for alleged coup plotter Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday, as his son flew to Manila from Davao City amid fears that his life was in danger.

Honasan's 26-year-old son, Kim Francis, said that he received "reports a few days ago from a reliable source that if they didn't catch (Gringo), they were going to pick me up."

On Monday night, security guards in Ladislawa Village in Davao City, where the younger Honasan lives, reported that "several unmarked vehicles" had been circling his house and that unidentified men had gone to the subdivision asking about his whereabouts.

"The house was still being monitored this morning," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Reported sightings of his father continued, but the reelectionist senator is proving to be elusive prey.

The fugitive, a senatorial candidate of the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM), has been reported sighted as far south as Maguindanao and North Cotabato and as far north as Apayao. The Apayao report was later found to be negative.

An employee of Cotabato City radio station dxMS also claimed to have seen Honasan.

"I managed to shake hands with him," said the employee who asked not to be named. He said a number of soldiers and alleged members of The Guardian Brotherhood were escorting the fugitive.

HONASAN/ A16

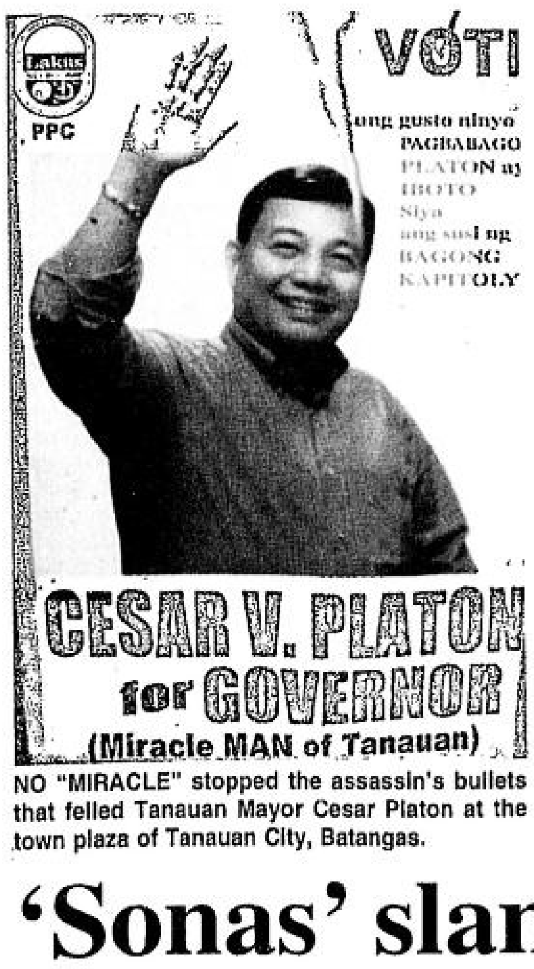
Gloria applauded abroad, says FVR

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY, TJ BURGONIO AND CATHY YAMSUAN

US SECRETARY of State Colin Powell and other foreign officials have welcomed President Macapagal-Arroyo's aggressive handling of the political turmoil that recently rocked her government, former President Fidel Ramos reported yesterday after arriving from a 17-day trip to the United States and Germany.

"I would like to report to you that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's firmness and assertion of political will within the framework of the Constitution and the rule of law were very well received

GLORIA/ A18



NO "MIRACLE" stopped the assassin's bullets that felled Tanauan Mayor Cesar Platon at the town plaza of Tanauan City, Batangas.

POLL VIOLENCE

Batangas gubernatorial bet shot dead; NPAs own killing

BY MEL MAGSINO
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TUY, Batangas—A lone communist gunman yesterday shot dead Mayor Cesar Platon of Tanauan City shortly after the administration gubernatorial candidate delivered a speech in a campaign rally at the town plaza.

Tirso "Ka Bart" Alcantara, a spokesperson of the New People's Army in Southern Tagalog, said in a press statement and a radio interview that the 52-year-old Platon was punished by the NPA for his "crimes against the people."

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Philippine National Police to immediately solve the killing even as the administration Lakas-NUCD dismissed the NPA charges against Platon as "brazen lies."

"We condemn such killing especially at this time when we want the elections to be as normal as possible," said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Batangas Gov. "Dodo" Mandanas, who is running for reelection in the May 14 polls under the Reporma party, condemned the killing of his political rival as "a big blow to the democratic process."

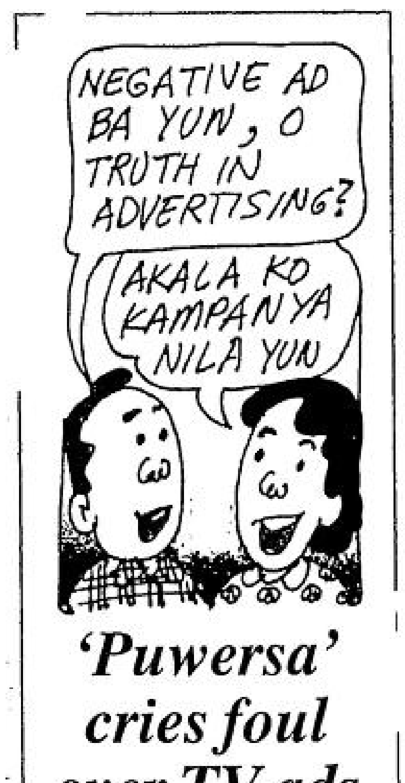
Nora Opillanio, Platon's secretary, said the killing took place about 2 a.m. as the mayor was buying popcorn from a vendor.

Opillanio said a man in brown shirt and black jeans shot him at the back of his head with a .45 cal. automatic.

"The mayor was already down but the gunman shot him three times more in the head. The killer, together with another man, ran toward the carnival area," she said in Filipino.

The plaza is only about 25 meters away from the police station, but investigators arrived at

BATANGAS/ A15



NEGATIVE AD BA YUN, O TRUTH IN ADVERTISING?
AKALA KO KAMPANYA NILA YUN

'Puwersa' cries foul over TV ads

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

IN AMERICA, it's called negative campaigning. Here, it's called "black propaganda."

Or so claims the opposition coalition, which yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to put a stop to the airing of a series of negative campaign ads on television.

The ads, which aired over the weekend, attack the LDP-Puwersa ng Masa

PUWERSA/ A16

Loi complains of body search by jail guards

"AS IF the humiliation of the President's arrest was not enough, my family especially my daughter Jackie has to go through more indignities" former first lady and senatorial candidate Loi Ejercito, told the INQUIRER Sunday during an exclusive interview at Fort Sto.Domingo, Sta. Rosa,Laguna where her husband, deposed President Estrada has been detained since May 1.

Ejercito complained that all visitors especially members of her family are subjected to a thorough body search, including her only daughter Jackie, who's married to a Lopez scion, Beaver Lopez.

"On her first visit to her father on May 1, Jackie did not mind the body search but was shocked when

LOI/ A15

'Sonas' slammed; lies, says Palace

BY JEROME ANING, MARTIN P. MARFIL, CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

GROUPS that helped put President Macapagal-Arroyo in power yesterday denounced the alleged rounding up of suspected supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada in urban poor communities in Manila, Malabon, Navotas and Caloocan hours before Ms Macapagal lifted the state of rebellion in Metro Manila on Sunday.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, however, described as "complete falsehood" reports that government forces arrested supporters of Estrada from the urban poor communities.

"There were no such *sonas* (saturation drives) that had been undertaken," Tiglao said in a press briefing.

At a picket on Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge to denounce the *sonas*, Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo said "residents reported that the troops had with them a list of persons suspected of leading the assault on Malacañang."

He said soldiers also rounded up men with tattoos of the "Guardians," an association of former soldiers identified with Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidate Gregorio Honasan, who is being sought for rebellion charges.

Ocampo said that while Ms Macapagal extended a "kid glove treatment" to those who tried to grab power on May 1, the President allegedly permitted government troops "to terrorize and violate the rights of ordinary people on mere

SONAS/ A4

Speedy trial for Erap sought

By Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday moved for a speedier trial of jailed former president Joseph Estrada by seeking an early arraignment of the plunder case against him and his co-accused.

Desierto filed an urgent motion with the Sandiganbayan asking that the date of arraignment—calling a prisoner before a court to allow him to make a plea of innocence or guilt—be moved from June 27 to not later than May 21.

The petition was based on the new rules on criminal procedures and the Speedy Trial Act, or Republic Act 8493, Desierto told a press conference yesterday.

Under RA 8493, the arraignment of any accused person should be held not later than 30 days from the date of the filing of the information.

The complaint for plunder and other criminal charges against Estrada and his co-conspirators were filed on April 4.

Section 1 (e) of Rule 116 of the Rules of Criminal Procedures, on the other hand, provides that the arraignment should be held not later than 10 days from the date the case was assigned to the court.

The case was assigned to the Sandiganbayan's 3rd division on April 8. Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, were arrested on April 25.

These rules pertain to all criminal cases and all preventive detention prisoners, Desierto said.

Bail application

May 21 was chosen as it was also the date set by the court to hear the application for bail of lawyer Edward Serapio who is also being preventively detained at Camp Crame on the same non-bailable offense.

The other accused in the plunder case—Yolanda Ricaforte, Delia Rajas, Alma Alfaro and Eleuterio Tan—are still at-large.

Desierto filed yesterday a second motion for a joint hearing on the application for bail of Estrada, Jinggoy and Serapio.

Earlier yesterday, the Sandiganbayan granted a petition to hold bail hearings for Serapio to see whether the evidence of state prosecutors against him is strong enough for it to rule out bail.

Justice Anacleto Badoy, the 3rd division chair, explained in an impromptu press briefing that under the Constitution, every citizen has the right to post bail except when he is charged with a capital offense and the evidence against him is strong.

Ire of justice

In an earlier hearing yesterday, Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena again criticized the Office of the Ombudsman over its decision to withdraw some of the bailable graft cases it filed on April 4 against Estrada and others.

Garchitorena threatened to cite the Ombudsman for contempt after being told by prosecutor Victor Tabaguil that Desierto had decided not to submit to the court the evidence on the five graft cases that had been withdrawn.

A "joke"

Garchitorena said that prosecutors couldn't just take back cases already filed without making a valid explanation to the court.

Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag had filed a comment asking the court to compel Desierto to explain why he should not be cited for contempt for making a "joke" of judicial processes and institutions.

Saguisag said the withdrawal came after Estrada had already suffered the humiliation of being fingerprinted and posing for mug shots the day the court issued arrest warrants for two bailable graft cases.

The Ombudsman had explained that he had decided to withdraw five of the eight criminal cases he originally filed against Estrada so state prosecutors could concentrate on the "main charge" of plunder.

'Jimpol' arraigned today

JAIME Policarpio, former chief of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office under the administration, is scheduled for arraignment on charges of indirect bribery at the Sandiganbayan at 8:30 a.m. today.

Currently out on a P6,000 bail, Policarpio is accused of receiving P2 million monthly in "jueteng" payola from August 1998 to November 2000 from Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who had also squealed on then President Joseph Estrada's alleged monthly bribe collections from big-time gambling lords.

The monthly bribe money was Policarpio's alleged "share" from Singson's collection of jueteng bribes meant for Estrada, according to the information filed on April 4 by the Ombudsman.

Singson had testified before the Senate blue ribbon committee and in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial that Policarpio was the person code-named "Jimpol" in the infamous ledger of jueteng bribes allegedly kept by Estrada through his "auditor" Yolly Ricaforte.

Policarpio voluntarily surrendered on April 10 hours after the Sandiganbayan's First Division ordered his arrest. He is the sole accused in Criminal Case No. 26566, which is being heard by the sala chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena.

Lina stays at DILG

SECRETARY Jose Lina stays as head of the Department of the Interior and Local Governments, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao and Lina himself made the emphatic statement amid reports that Lina would replace Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

"Let's put this matter to rest, There's no such decision to transfer Secretary Lina. That's it, period. He won't be transferred, period, period," Tiglao said.

"I don't even know," Lina said of reports that the President planned to transfer him to DTI when and if Roxas agrees to become the new finance secretary.

President Macapagal confirmed last week that she plans to appoint Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo as her new Executive Secretary in place of Renato de Villa, who will go on an indefinite leave from the Cabinet after a heart bypass.

It was the President herself who dropped the item about Lina moving on to DTI, saying Lina, Roxas and Romulo preferred to stay where they were but were all "good soldiers."

Miriam withdraws bid to move polls

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

OPPOSITION senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago withdrew yesterday her petition asking the Commission on Elections to postpone the May 14 elections, saying there was no more reason to do so after President Macapagal-Arroyo lifted the state of rebellion in Metro Manila on Sunday.

Santiago, however, said she was pushing through with her petition to the Supreme Court seeking a stop to the warrantless arrest of opposition leaders, including herself, who were implicated in the alleged plot to overthrow the Macapagal administration.

Ms Macapagal declared a state of rebellion on May 1 following the storming of Malacañang by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

At a press conference at Club Filipino yesterday, Santiago said she was not withdrawing her petition before the high tribunal because the government has not said it would stop warrantless arrests even after the state of rebellion had been lifted.

Santiago cited Section 266 of the Omnibus Election Code that prohibits the arrest of a candidate during a campaign in connection with any campaign issue.

Her fellow candidate, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, said yesterday he was not worried about the rebellion charges filed against him in connection with the attack on Malacañang, even with the election day nearing.

Enrile, who was freed on P100,000 bail Saturday after four days in detention, said, "I am not worried. I have not done anything to make me anxious."

In Bacolod City, opposition senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara accused the Macapagal administration of planning to cheat in the May 14 polls.

"We have received reliable information that persons known to alter election returns are now operating in Mindanao," he said.

Angara told a press conference yesterday his group was verifying information that unauthorized ballot boxes had arrived in several places in Mindanao.

He said government officials have also ordered opposition Puwersa ng Masa leaders in Mindanao to ensure a 13-0 victory for the administration People Power Coalition "or else." *With Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Leila Salaverria*

Lobbyists back at DECS

LOBBYISTS are back in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, trying to bag around P1.5 billion meant for clothing allowance of public school teachers for the purchase of two textile warehouses instead.

Education Secretary Raul Roco yesterday revealed that lobbyists identified with a political group have approached education officials in an attempt to divert funds for clothing allowance to the direct distribution of textile for the teachers' uniforms.

Roco said a lobbyist, whose group has already been noted by the Senate before, had called his office claiming that the remaining budget for clothing allowance was allocated for the purchase of two textile warehouses to supply the teachers' uniforms.

The DECS chief refused to name the group or politician associated with the lobbyists but said it has already been crossed the records of the Senate blue ribbon committee. He however did not confirm if the group has a pending case or is the subject of an investigation by any judicial body.

"I don't want to name names yet because it may be given a political color. Let me just say that we will really clean up," Roco said in a press briefing yesterday. "If they don't stop lobbying, we will expose them to the public. We will prosecute anybody who continues lobbying in this regard."

The country's 500,000 public school teachers are entitled to P4,000 clothing allowance, given in cash, for their school uniforms every year. The DECS had already given out the P3,000 last month, but the remaining P1,000 has yet to be released by the Department of Budget and Management.

Roco said the lobby group, who claims that the past DECS administration had approved the purchase of the Metro Manila-based textile warehouses, was targeting the unreleased allocation.

"We will stand our ground: It is wrong that we take away from teachers money that properly belongs to them," Roco said.

"We will not and never under this administration give them clothing (instead of cash). They decide what to do with their clothing allowance. Some say they can even buy shoes with the allowance," he added.

Roco said the DECS would eliminate all doubts that it was serious in cleaning up the agency, touted in surveys as among the most corrupt in the government, owing to the past textbook, vehicle and payroll scandals.

Militants want 'fugitives' DQd

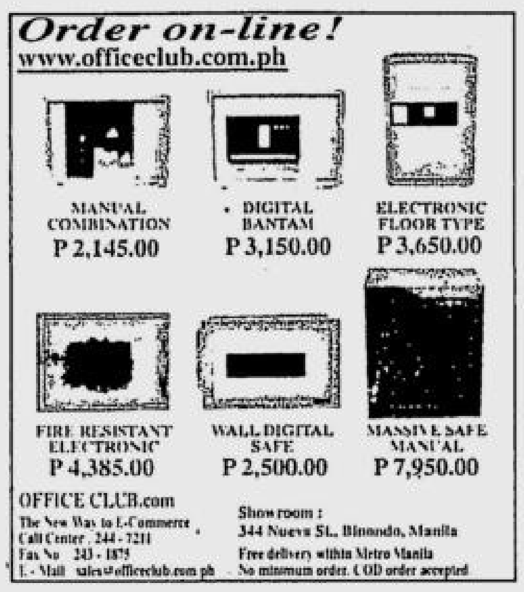
MILITANTS yesterday called for the disqualification of opposition senatorial candidates Gringo Honasan and Panfilo Lacson from the senatorial race, saying that the two "fugitives" do not deserve to be elected as lawmakers.

The leftist militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates-Youth (NNARA-Youth) said that the fact that the two senatorial candidates showed "not even a little respect for the law," they no longer have any right to become lawmakers.

"Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson are now considered fugitives from justice and they must be immediately disqualified from the senatorial race. They don't have the right to become lawmakers because they do not even show a little respect for the law," KMP Secretary General Danilo Ramos said.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

COPYSTAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
PROVEN HEAVY DUTY COPIER REMANUFACTURED
Introducing CLEAR POWDER COPIER w/ Reducer / Enlarger
Canon
Also available: RICOH FT3320 for only P15,000
RICOH FT 4480 3 paper cassette loading for only P20,000
CALL US TODAY! | SALES: 899-7101 to 04 • 899-7045 SERVICE: 899-7075 TO 76 • 899-7023
MAIN OFFICE: COPYSTAR Bldg., 948 J.P. Rizal Mkt. City TEL: 899-7101 - 04 FAX: 895-7802
CEBU OFFICE: 178 Sanslangko St., Cebu City Tel No.: 255-0504 / 256-3368 to 69
PAMPANGA: Mc Arthur Hi-way Dolores San Fdo., Pampanga Tel. No.: 963-5055 to 58 FAX.: 963-5059


Order on-line!
www.officeclub.com.ph
MANUAL COMBINATION P 2,145.00
DIGITAL BANTAM P 3,150.00
ELECTRONIC FLOOR TYPE P 3,650.00
FIRE RESISTANT ELECTRONIC P 4,385.00
WALL DIGITAL SAFE P 2,500.00
MASSIVE SAFE MANUAL P 7,950.00
OFFICE CLUB.com
The New Way to E-Commerce
Call Center : 244 - 7211
Fax No 243 - 1875
E - Mail sales@officeclub.com.ph
Show room :
344 Nueva St., Binondo, Manila
Free delivery within Metro Manila
No minimum order. COD order accepted

PRE-RENOVATION SALE
OUR GOLDEN MOST PERFECTED AUTOMATIC INSTANT WATER HEATERS
BHAGWAN REGULAR Original manual type still in use for 43 years now
BHAGWAN SUPER Improved Regular Model with clock and Chrome fitting
AUTO BHAGWAN Automatic Heater with Galvanized Pipe Also Available Jr. Auto Bhagwan
ELECTRO BHAGWAN Top of the line mode. Use with any water type/plastic pipes. Also available Jr Electro Bhagwan
BHAGWAN FILTER For drinking pure, clean, rust free water, cleanable cartridge
20% Off!!
on all water heaters and water filters
Good for 15 days only !!
Bhagwan water heaters, in its 43 years of dominance in the market, has always been the brand trusted by many households today. We assure every customer that each Bhagwan unit was made to last a lifetime. Through years of experience and research, we have perfected the quality and performance of its line-up of manual, automatic and electronic models.
* free handshower set for all automatic models
Promo Runs May 8-23, 2001
Call us at 712-0788/ 712-0799
BHAGWAN HEATER CORPORATION
For free demonstration visit: 75 Sto: Domingo cor. M. Aggregado Sts. Quezon City
Dealers are welcome to take advantage of this special offer !!!
Prices offered are lower than wholesale prices !!!

EverTel
5-line Phone + Intercom
Like PABX BUT PRICE IS CHEAPER
SUPER SALE!
Evertel can provide any telecom requirements like 3-LINE & 2-LINE PHONE, FASHION PHONE, CORDLESS PHONE, 2-WAY RADIO, etc.
You've got the best value for your money !
EverTel Phils. Corp.
Manila: 749-5464 732-9432 Makati: 892-7509 892-7522
ACCREDITED BY: PLDT ISO NTC

PROFIT
WHY WATERWARE IS YOUR BEST-PROFIT BOOSTER IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING PURE & SAFE WATER.
- We provide start-up and training, store lay-out and design.
- We provide no less than the best pro-active customers service.
- We have a complete inventory of parts and service personnel on - call for your immediate needs.
- We customize equipment based on quality of source water.
Available in 500 to 5,000 GPD
CALL NOW to AVAIL OF BIG DISCOUNT & other FREE ITEMS!
Now accepting distributorship nationwide:
Tels.: 838-2042 • 838-2052 to 55 • 838-2037 / 39
FAX: 838-2050
CEBU OFFICE: (032) 345-9261
WATER WARE International Inc.
Global Technology. Local Expertise.
3rd Floor Administration Bldg., Duhat St., FTI Complex Taguig MM.
E-mail: watrware@philonline.com
A MEMBER OF: Water Quality

Best for OFFICES, COPY CENTERS, INSTITUTIONS and BUSINESS
RICOH SHARP Canon UBIX MITA TOSHIBA RISO GESTETNER
COMPATIBLE PARTS & SUPPLIES
LOW, LOW PRICES ON PARTS & SUPPLIES
DRUM SEL. OR CLEANING BLADE CLEANING ROLLER DISPERSANT TONER COPY PAPER DEVELOPER HOT ROLLER PRESSURE ROLLER HEATER LAMP EXPOSURE LAMP
FOR SALE RICOH Copier
BRAND NEW OR REMANUFACTURED
ALSO OFFERS REPAIR OF MAINBOARDS & OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES
TURN YOUR FREE SPACE INTO EXTRA INCOME
BE A PARTNER IN OUR HIGHLY-PROFITABLE PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE AND GET ALMOST 50% OF THE PROFITS* All you need is to give us a corner of your office or institution, and we'll do the rest
ABSOLUTELY NO CASH OUTLAY REQUIRED
OUR BUSINESS IS TO SERVE YOU BEST. CALL NOW!
SAGITARIES BUSINESS MACHINE CENTER
1627-1629 F. AGONCILLO ST. MALATE, MANILA
TEL. 4001256 / 5367309 / 5365508 / 5232148

TERUMO
Ear Thermometer
EM-30CP
Made in JAPAN
very light! very small!
• weighs only 38 grams •
Features:
- can be operated in 5-35°C
- can be used up to 10,000 readings
- probe can be used 30 times/person
- changeable beep sound
Because it takes only 1 sec. to measure temperature, the EM-30CP is ideal for use when your child is lying down or restless. Its speed and ease-of-use are also ideal for adult use.
in just 1 sec. you can get the right temperature
Ideal for all ages
Distributed by: PROGRESSIVE MEDICAL CORPORATION
488 G. Araneta Ave. cor Del Monte Ave Quezon City
TEL: (02) 732-3456 FAX: (02) 687-2192

Comelec lists 6 parties

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Elections has picked the six political parties, out of 22 participating in the May 14 polls, that will be allowed to field the principal watchers and receive copies of election returns during the counting of votes after the polls close.

In a resolution issued over the weekend, the Comelec en banc named the six political parties as the ruling Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, the Nationalist People's Coalition, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Liberal Party, PDP-Laban and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Lakas was named the dominant majority party, while the NPC, which is headed by businessman and erstwhile Estrada crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, was selected the dominant minority party.

Aside from election returns, the two parties will receive original copies of certificates of canvass in the city and provincial levels.

The two parties will also provide one padlock each ambng the four locks to be used to secure the storage rooms for the ballot boxes in the cities and provinces.

Comelec commissioner Rex Borra said the top three parties—Lakas, NPC and LDP—shall be given original copies of election returns at the precinct level. The three other parties will have to get their copies from the first three, he said.

"They may decide among themselves who shall give a copy to whom, but in case of disagreements the Comelec shall assign the parties to provide the copies," Borra said.

Borra clarified that other parties, including independent candidates, party-list groups and accredited volunteers, could still field their own watchers. They could also get copies of election returns but not from the Comelec, he said.

Borra made the clarification after the All Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ATUCP), a labor party-list organization, had called on the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and other citizens groups to help small parties and party-list groups guard their votes during the counting.

"Unlike traditional parties, party-list groups, particularly those from the marginalized sectors, are unable to afford poll watchers," Alex Aguilar, ATUCP spokesperson, said.

In accrediting only six major parties, the Comelec looked into "the established records of the parties, coalition or groups that compose them, taking into account among other things their showing in past elections."

Other criteria set by the Comelec were the number of incumbent elective officials belonging to the party 90 days before the elections, their organization and strengths as evidenced by their chapters, and their ability to fill a complete slate of candidates from the municipal level up to the presidency.

PNP hoping for HOPE on May 14

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is all set for the May 14 elections, or so it hopes.

And HOPE—honest, orderly and peaceful elections—is what it would have on Monday if the preparations made by the police come off without a hitch.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza and PNP Director for Operations Edgardo Aglipay briefed reporters yesterday on police preparations for the Monday polls after they met with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Our marching orders are to ensure HOPE," Mendoza said.

"Elections are always a difficult time but given the resources we now have, we hope we could pull it off," he said.

Plans include the deployment of police to 11 provinces and 39 cities and towns nationwide considered as "areas of immediate concern," and to eight provinces and 550 municipalities (including nine in Metro Manila) tagged as merely "areas of concern."

Lina said "areas of immediate concern" are those with at least half of their barangays infested with insurgents, where there is intense political rivalry, and which experienced election-related violence in the 1992, 1995 and 1998 polls.

"Areas of concern" are those where any two of these conditions are present.

Lina said there are no "areas of immediate concern" in Metro Manila, but there are nine "areas of concern"—Malabon, Manila, Caloocan, Makati, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Valenzuela and Quezon cities.

Mendoza said implementation of the gun ban since Jan. 2 has resulted in the confiscation of 1,250 firearms and the arrest of 1,432 persons. He said 723 cases were filed in court, adding there were cases in which one person owned more than one weapon.

China executes 5 for 'shabu' smuggling in RP

BEIJING—China has executed five suspected members of a gang that used fishing boats to smuggle millions of dollars worth of the illegal drug "ice" to the Philippines, state media said.

The five, including alleged gang leader Tan Weisheng, were executed on April 25 in Taishan, a city in the southern province of Guangdong, the official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday. Seven other purported members of the gang were sentenced to jail terms ranging from 15 years to life.

Seven other people are being prosecuted separately, Xinhua said.

The Guangdong-based gang smuggled 2,310 kg of methamphetamine hydrochloride, a powerful and addictive stimulant, popularly known as ice or "meth," to the Philippines in several batches between 1998 and 2000, Xinhua said. It is known as "shabu" in the Philippines.

It was China's biggest methamphetamine smuggling case, Xinhua said. In the United States, the drugs would have been worth about $120 million.

Xinhua did not say how the executions were carried out. China's preferred method is a single shot to the back of the head or chest.

A police officer in Taishan confirmed the report but refused to disclose further details or give his name.

Meanwhile, Xinhua said Chinese paramilitary police have joined a nationwide police crackdown on criminal gangs, breaking up more than 100 gangs in the last month.

Human rights groups complain that courts have rushed to judgments and passed too many death sentences in the crackdown, launched April 11 because of government concerns that rampant gangsterism and local corruption are undermining popular support for communist rule. *AP*

World marks Red Cross Day

TODAY is World Red Cross Day.

The Philippine National Red Cross and the 175 other Red Cross and Red Crescent societies worldwide will pay tribute to its thousands of volunteers who are very much the foundation the 138 year old humanitarian institution.

Also today, the international Red Cross and Red Crescent community will salute Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross whose contribution to the promotion of peace made him the recipient of the First Nobel Peace Prize 100 years ago.

Theme of the PNRC for this year's World Red Cross Day is "Red Cross: A Gift to Humanity."

To highlight the occasion, PNRC Chair Justice Leonor Ines Luciano said, Red Cross supporters and friends will send gifts of flowers and Red Cross pins to the people, including the media, who have contributed in making the Red Cross a "Gift to Humanity" through its various services to those in distress.

Nazario, 74

DR. Salome Panem Nazario, director of the Office of Senior Citizens Affair (Osca) of the Manila City Hall and concurrently administrator of the Mahal Ko Si Lolo Mahal Ko Si Lola Foundation, will be honored today at necrological services at the Bulwagan Villegas. A Mass will precede the services at 10 a.m.

Dr. Nazario died of heart failure in San Jose, California, on April 30 at the age of 74. She was brought to Manila on May 5 and her remains had been lying at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe prior to her transfer to City Hall at 9 a.m. today.

The widow of the late Conrado Nazario, also a former City Hall executive, she left behind six children, now residents of San Jose, California. Dr. Nazario migrated there in 1968.

Diamonds...
We are BUYING loose DIAMONDS and BIG DIAMOND JEWELERIES.
Any size!
Any quality!
Any quantity!
(Also old cut and yellow stones!)
From PAWNSHOP, FINANCERS and PRIVATES.
We pay only CASH, DOLLARS or Pesos.
(We are serving all provinces in the Philippines.)
Tel: 636-2815 • Pager: 1277-89270
We will help you to redeem your item
Special arrangement for regular suppliers

Need Help? We fix all computer problems,
...specially computer VIRUS?
FAST & RELIABLE
ON-SITE SERVICE
ALL WORKS GUARANTEED
Call our hotline today
303-8888
Service & Support
PCMed Technicians
Save this ads for your future requirements

Flight Holidays
ASIAN PACKAGES
HONG KONG 4D / 3N VIA PR $295 Accommodations at Panda Hotel
HONG KONG + 1 NITE SHENZHEN 4D 3N VIA PR $340 Departure Every Friday
HONG KONG + 1 NITE MACAU 4D 3N VIA PR $310 Dep. Blockings May 11-14, 18 21 / 25 28
MACAU + FATIMA PROCESSION 4D 3N VIA AIR MACAU $230 Dep. Blockings May 12 15
2 NITES MACAU + 2 NITES HONG KONG 5D 4N VIA AIR MACAU $295
MACAU + HONG KONG DAYTRIP $225
BEIJING + SHENZHEN + HONG KONG 6D / 5N WITH FREE GROUP VISA $695
BANGKOK 4D / 3N VIA PR $260
SINGAPORE 4D / 3N VIA PR $375
TICKET ONLY
18 DAYS EUROPE $2,850
GREECE & TURKEY $2,557
FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS

HongKong
SPECIAL SUMMER OFFERS
DORSET SEAVIEW/GARDEN HOTELS
•Near the famous Night Market•
ONLY $288 /PERSON
SPECIAL BARKADA PACKAGE (5 Star Hotel)
MARCO POLO/PRINCE HOTEL
ONLY $310 /PERSON
PACKAGES INCLUDE
• 4/DAYS3/NIGHTS HOTEL
• ROUND TRIP AIRFARE
• ROUND TRIP TRANSFER
• HALFDAY CITY TOUR
• DAILY BREAKFAST
• FREE Shenzhen shopping tour with FREE LUNCH
GUARANTEE (Free shopping time at Lo Wu Shopping Center
Also check our special deals on other hotels
For destination update check DiscoverHongKong.com
WORLD WINGS
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURS CORPORATION
TELS: 410-7184, 926-5804, 926-5817, 926-5821, 926-5854 FAX: 926-5842
Ground flr., K Plaza, 18 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
(OPEN SATURDAYS)
E-mail: wwings@itextron.com

DOUBLE CHECK DIABETES
(SIMPLY AND ACCURATELY)
• Blood Glucose Monitoring System
• Reads MMOL/L or MG/DL
• Easy To Operate
PRESTIGE GLUCOSE METER
fareastmedical.net
SM MANILA
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW
SM NORTH EDSA
SM SOUTHMALL
GREENHILLS SAN JUAN
CEBU

KITANO/K8 www.nibo88.com
SEIKO Made in Japan TIME RECORDER
• Heavy Duty
• 2 color printing
• Melody function
• Auto card feed
• W/ Security password
P7,300
TIME RECORDER
Heavy Duty CHECKWRITER
P2,998 LAMINATOR
HEAVY DUTY BINDING MACHINE 24 HOLES
HEAVY DUTY PUNCHER
PAPER SHREDDER P488
Makati Tel.: 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327

DESIGNED TO LAST
INDUSTRIAL COLD SERIES
WH 2111 2500 PSI
Prima 1900 PSI
TX 952 3 phase
Major Credit Cards Accepted.
Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos
FROM THE NO. 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
WITH AFTER SALES SERVICE
Exclusively Distributed by CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.
Main Office Kimura Bldg 185 M. Orosa St. Malate Mla Telefax 5244380
Tel. Nos.: 5244472 • 5240529 Trunkline: 5245290
Quezon City Br 646 Quezon Ave Q.C. across Sto. Domingo Church
Bet. G. Araneta Ave Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

Facial Care Centre Introduces
Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment

Experience energy from nature with a powersupply of **VEGETABLE** essenses and **VITAMINS** in one treatment. Natural elements combine to boost your skin's youthful vitality. Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment utilizes the therapeutic powers of **Dill**, known in Chinese and Western Medicine as a healing herb coupled with a new stabilized **Vitamin C** that promotes better penetration through the skin to:

- neutralize the effects of free radicals
- keep the cell structures intact so skin is firm, supple and resilient
- lighten the skin by transforming the colored melanin to a colorless pigment
- prevent age spots by inhibiting the production of new melanin
- increase collagen synthesis to diminish wrinkle formation and increase the skin's elasticity

Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment.
Anti-oxidizing, stimulating and anti-wrinkle.
Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

Supercharge YOUR Skin

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

MAKATI	NEW LOCATION ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CEBU
817-3323 812-6080/81 Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	687-2196 687-2197 631-3007 • 631-3045 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	372-6633 372-6634 410-3709 • 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg, Timog Avenue	534-7701/02 717-0076 Sunshine Square Plaza	842-1144 809-9583 / 850-4577 Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	242-2148 242-2185 Federal Tower Bldg. Dasmariñas St.	233-7631 233-7633/35 Keppel Centre, Cebu City

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

'Sonas' slammed; lies, says Palace

(From page A1)

suspicion that they took part in the siege of Malacañang."

The League of Urban Poor for Action (Lupa) said that "soldiers in full battle gear" raided Barangay Landaska on Maypajo Extension, Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City Sunday night.

Army trucks

"They conducted mass arrest of men and women and proceeded to load these people onto two six-by-six trucks," Lupa said, quoting members in the area.

Bayan Muna's affiliate, the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said it also received reports that fishing and squatter villages on Langaray Streets in Barangays 14, 18 and 28 in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City, were raided Sunday by civilian-clad men who claimed to be soldiers.

Nine barangays in Malabon, including Catmon, Sto. Niño, Gulayan, Concepcion, Niugan and Tonsuya as well as four barangays in Navotas—North Bay Boulevard, C-4, Tanza and Little Samar—were also raided by the police and military over the weekend.

Tiglao said soldiers indeed scoured an urban poor community in Tondo to look for a pro-Estrada leader two days after the attack on the Palace.

A group of 15 soldiers swooped down on a cluster of buildings called "temporary housing area" in Barangay 105 in Tondo, said a police report submitted to Malacañang.

The report said 15 soldiers conducted the raid around 8:30 p.m. on May 3 to look for a certain "Peping Magbanua."

The group failed to locate Magbanua, reportedly one of the leaders of the protesters who attacked Malacañang on May 1.

A second military raid, this time coordinated with the Smokey Mountain police detachment, was conducted the next day in the same area.

M/Sgt. Felix Caber led the second raid but his team also came out empty-handed, according to the report.

Tiglao said the report that "truckloads" of Estrada supporters were brought to military and police camps was part of an organized "disinformation campaign."

Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan Police chief, said supporters of Estrada in northern Manila could be behind the "disinformation campaign."

"Perhaps, they were paranoid that they would be arrested for joining the Mendiola rally," he told the INQUIRER.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, branded as "black propaganda" the reported zoning.

He identified an incumbent mayor and a congressman as behind the black propaganda but he asked the INQUIRER not to name them.

"Zoning is a violation of human rights. We respect human rights such that the police exercised maximum tolerance that prevented bloodshed during the violent early-morning siege of Malacañang," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said the mobile patrol, conducted by the 6 x 6-truck-riding military and police, were undertaken not only in slum areas in Tondo but "everywhere in Metro Manila."

Troops were also deployed at oil depots, major television stations and other government and private establishments to protect them from the "ringleaders" of the rebellion, according to Mendoza.

Tension gripped slum areas in Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas the other night following reports that at least three 6 x 6 military trucks had been patrolling the area.

Phone brigade

Police stations were swamped with calls from residents.

Among the callers from Caloocan were Alfredo Alonzo, Joel Consolacion and Aristotle Varma, all residents of Libis Nadurata; Marilyn Henoven of Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan; and Roy Cruz, who identified himself as a paramedic of the Caloocan City Hall.

Another caller, tricycle driver Reynaldo Sordilla, reported that he had personal knowledge of the presence of the Philippine Marines in his barangay in Dagat-Dagatan, police records showed.

But when interrogated by police later, Sordilla retracted his statement and confessed that he had been paid to spread the rumor.

He said three unidentified men on board a red car gave him money about 8:30 p.m. on Capac Street, Dagat-Dagatan to make such report, investigation showed.

By 9 p.m. text messages circulated, confirming the alleged simultaneous zoning, which reportedly began at 6 p.m.

Immediately after receiving the reports, Mantele said he and his men personally went to the areas to check the alleged zoning. He said police saw no military trucks or personnel patrolling the areas.

"When we visited the places, people were running as if afraid of ghosts," Mantele said. "But when we asked them if they had relatives missing, they said there were none."

Evacuation

But despite the police's assurance that there was no saturation drive, residents sought refuge in front of the Caloocan City Hall at about 10 p.m. They returned to their houses after an hour.

The reported roundups drew the ire of urban poor groups.

The Katipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap, a key player at the People Power II, condemned the "military zoning" and asked Ms Macapagal to immediately recall the troops to their barracks.

The Youth Movement for Justice and Meaningful Change also called on the government to stop the alleged military operation.

The Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace said initial reports gathered by his group indicated that the operations were conducted in at least four barangays in Caloocan City a few hours before the state of rebellion was lifted.

EMJP secretary general Dani Beltran said the saturation drives conducted by SWAT teams and "other armed men" resulted in the disappearance of at least seven persons.

"Whatever their reasons for these saturation drives are, the terrifying conduct in the middle of the night by still unidentified armed men is reminiscent of the dark days of Marcos' martial law and Aquino's total war policy," Beltran said.

Party-list group Bayan Muna, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and its allied groups marched on Mendiola yesterday morning to call on the administration to end the three-day drive.

Several kilometers away, some 400 members of the party-list group Partido ng Manggagawa picketed the main gate of Camp Aguinaldo to demand that the military stop its operations in Tondo and Navotas.

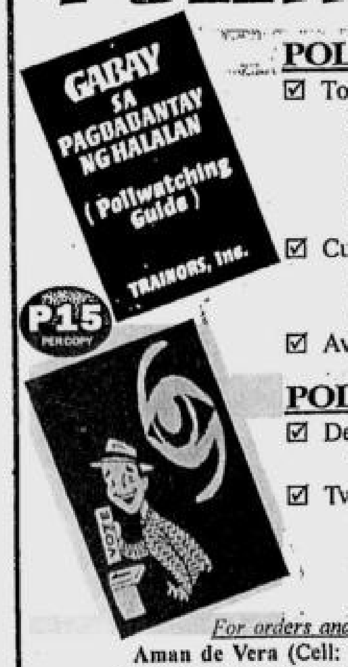
Partido ng Manggagawa secretary general Victor Briz said that while Ms Macapagal was announcing the lifting of the state of rebellion, Marines and police SWAT teams were still carrying out saturation drives in North Bay Boulevard, Bacog and Daanghari in Navotas. *With reports from Christine Herrera and Gerald Lacuarta*

POLLWATCHING

POLLWATCHING BOOKLET
☑ Topics: Guidelines for Pollwatchers, Pollwatchers' Rights and Duties, Voting Rules and Procedures, Appreciation of Ballots, Election Fraud, Election Forms, and Party List System
☑ Customized Pollwatching Guide Booklet may be designed with the inclusion of the Candidate's Picture and Message
☑ Available in Filipino or English version

POLLWATCHING TRAINING
☑ Design, Management and Supervision of Trainings in Pollwatching
☑ Two to three (2-3) Professional Training Lecturers and Facilitator/Staff per half-day Training Activity

For orders and arrangements, please call or text:
Aman de Vera (Cell: 0917-9981061, Telefax: 6352072)
Nendith Pascua (Cell: 0919-8496575, Telefax: 9328807)

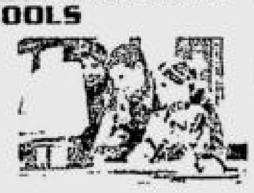


Build a Globally Successful I.T. Career
Learn from the Best I.T. Professionals in the World.
Join The First
GENETIC Computer INSTITUTE
CONFERENCE 2001
Manila Midtown Hotel, May 12,2001 (Sat)

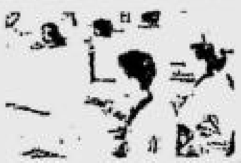
GUEST SPEAKERS:
Mr. Steve Oakey
Chairman, Board of Examiners Past Head of Computing, Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
Mr. William Goh
Managing Director, Genetic Computer School, Singapore
Dr. Arthur G. Cleveland, Ph.D.
Dean of College of Science, Columbus State University, U.S.A.

GENETIC CAREER CONFERENCE
Time: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Know more about the growing demand for I.T. Professionals both here and abroad and learn how you can earn dollars and build your global I.T. competence now.

GCI TECHNOLOGICAL INTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS CONVENTION
Time: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
T.I.P.S. on how we can help your school and your students through our internationally accredited computer curriculum.



GENETIC FRANCHISING CONFERENCE
Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Learn how we can fast track investment with Genetic's Proven Educational Franchising Program



HURRY! ADMISSION IS FREE
VISIT OR CALL 723-6143 / 414-1373

HEAD OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Unit 207 Seneca Plaza Bldg., 1152 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C. | 723-6143 • 722-05-45 | events@genetic.com.ph
QUEZON CITY: 415-6592 or 95 / 722-0549 • BINONDO: 242-52-16 / 242-56-57 / 247-09-32 • ESPANA: 731-92-90 / 731-95-01 / 731-13-03 • ORTIGAS: 631-5494 / 634-4413 / 634-3407 • SHAW BLVD.: 535-1026 to 29 • NORTH EDSA: 374-6601 TO 05 • DAVAO: (082) 300-2760 • MAKATI: 895-3304 / 895-8582 / 895-8175 • PARANAQUE: 820-8740 / 820-9760 / 820-7852 • CAINTA: 249-0697 to 99 / 249-0900 to 03 • CEBU: (032) 234-1603 / (032) 234-1605 • BANAWE: 411-1130 / 365-2424

Career Conference Participants can get a chance to win Pre-Paid Internet Kits, Modems or Colored Printer

SINGAPORE • BANGLADESH • BOTSWANA • BRUNEI • CHINA • GHANA • INDIA • INDONESIA • KUWAIT • MALAYSIA • MALDIVES • MAURITIUS • OMAN • MONGOLIA • MYANMAR • NEPAL • PAKISTAN • PHILIPPINES • QATAR • SIERRA LEONE • SYRIA • SRI LANKA • TAIWAN • THAILAND • VIETNAM • ZIMBABWE

MEDIA SPONSORS:
COMPUTERWORLD

A VOTE FOR VFP
IS A VOTE FOR THE
FILIPINO PATRIOT

DAKILA KA PILIPINO!

V VETERANS
F FEDERATION
P PARTY

PARTY LIST ng Makabayang Pilipino

PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

The VFP's program of government supports the empowerment of rural communities according to the principles of the Constitution in the following priority concerns:

A. POLITICAL
- Adoption of a decentralized system of government;
- Development of local human resources;
- Maximization of people's representation and participation in the development of communities;
- Institutionalization of the procedures on determining the most qualified to handle government positions; and
- Adoption of an independent foreign policy.

B. ECONOMIC
- Promotion of community-based small and medium enterprises;
- Modernization of agriculture and promotion of industrialization;
- Improvement of tax system;
- Maintenance of the stability of the domestic and foreign exchange values of the Philippine Pesos;
- Protection of labor rights;
- Development and implementation of mechanisms for community-based utilization of natural resources; and
- The VFP stands against all forms of monopoly.

C. SOCIAL
- *"Peoples Health is Nations Wealth"* - Provide professional medical care in the barangays;
- *"Freedom from Ignorance"*;
- *"Those Who Have Less In Life Must Have More In Law"*.

FILIPINO, TULARAN MO ANG BETERANO
*NAG-AALAY NG BUHAY PARA SA IYO
*PATULOY NA NAGLILINGKOD PARA SA KALAYAAN, KAPAYAPAAN AT KAUNLARAN MO

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Liberation from tyranny during WW II
- Military Campaign in Vietnam, Korea
- Peace and Order
- Anti-dissidence Campaign
- Restoration of Constitutional Govt.
- Equity & Justice to Filipino Veterans

Join the "resistance movement" against Poverty, Criminality and Moral Degeneration thru Veterans Federation Party (VFP)

Donated by friends of VFP

Fabulous Wealth-Making Opportunity!

Find out how you can turn US$39 into a cash windfall of up to US$65 MILLION in just a matter of weeks.

Such an incredible return on your money is now possible! No conventional investment opportunity offers this kind of fantastic wealth-making potential not stocks, bonds, commodities, precious gems, metals, art or any traditional investment vehicle.

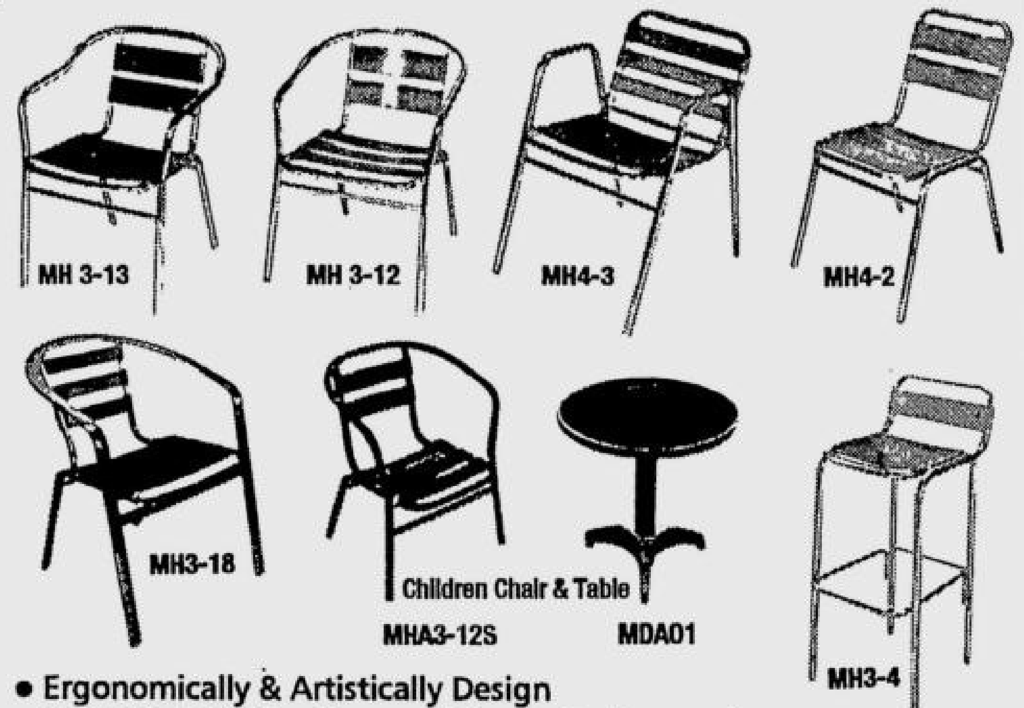
What's even more amazing is that participation is virtually effortless. There is absolutely no expertise or specialised knowledge required to get in on this exclusive chance of a lifetime!

Our organisation has produced over US$50 MILLION in returns for our clients to date. Now for the first time, we are making this incredible opportunity available to readers of this publication. To receive all information needed to take advantage of this proven offer, just complete the attached coupon and mail to us at the address indicated below. There is no obligation to buy, no strings attached and absolutely nothing to lose. Realise the fortune of a lifetime. Fill in the coupon below and send in today! Important: if writing, please include free package # Y1E008.

RUSH me my FREE Wealth-Making Opportunity information package # Y1E008 today!
Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Y1E008
FIRST NAME SURNAME
Address
TOWN/CITY COUNTRY
Telephone (
Date of Birth / /
(YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER)
Return to: Global Processing Centre, PO Box 13106 Stn Terminal Vancouver BC V6B 4W6, Canada
©2001 GAD-003B 48FA18EUS002

For PARTY LIST
VOTE
KATAPAT
Kilusang Tungo sa Pambansang Tangkilikan
Pawalang bisa ang "Retail Trade Liberalization Law."
Ibalik ang Retail Trade Nationalization Act na nagbibigay protection sa maliliit na retailers.
Pilipinas para sa Pilipino.
Political advertisement paid for by the friends of Katapat

Rust Free! Aluminum Chair & Table



• Ergonomically & Artistically Design
• Light Weight, Weatherproof & easy to Transport
• For Fast Food, Hotel, Restaurant, Clubhouse & Resorts

KOPINO CORPORATION
MULTI-RICH HOME DECOR, INC. BLDG.,
488 Boni Ave. Ext., cor. San Joaquin St., Mandaluyong City
Tels.: 534-3612 & 534-3614 Fax: 533-2026
PROVINCIAL & METRO MANILA DEALERSHIP WELCOME

The Perfect LOSE-YOUR-GUT Programme.

SLIMMERS WORLD

-ONLY-

P40

PER VISIT
FULL ENROLLMENT

FIRST 25 TODAY

BUY 10 TREATMENTS, GET 10 FREE

First 25 today / Conditions apply.

11 CENTERS IN MANILA,
1 IN SUBIC,
1 IN CEBU!

No monthly dues.

-Ultrapeel-
A revolutionary breakthrough in the treatment of skin & body problems.

-FAT LOSS PROGRAMME-
With personal fitness trainer.

CALL US:

VISIT US: http://www.slimmersworld.com.ph EMAIL US: inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI	MALATE	MEGAMALL	PASAY RD.	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC	SALCEDO VILL.
Arlene	Clance	Jenny	MM	Cathy	Jaja	Analyn	Michelle	Irene	Yvonne	Aileen	Ruza	Madel
2nd Flr.. RCBC Bldg.	3/F Regina Garden II	6/F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave.	Basement 1 & 2 Ayala Center	27/F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis	G/F Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St.	6/F Pan Pacific Hotel, Adriatico St.	2/F Bldg. A Megamall	1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St.	Restaurant Ave., Marcos Hi-way	SM City 2/F SM Annex	2/F Times Sq. Bldg. Rizal Hi-way	Trafalgar Plaza Dela Costa St.
809-0396	242-1312	365-7654	231-3254	726-6505	893-8934	536-0619	631-3869	887-1336	681-5333	929-5429	252-6514	814-0138

Introducing...

PSB Flexiloan

The flexible term loan that quickly addresses the need for cash to cover every conceivable personal or family need. PSB Flexiloan lets you* borrow up to a maximum of P250,000 at a fixed low rate of 2% per month. Your choice of easy 12, 18, 24 or 36 months term. **And no collateral required!**

* employees belonging to the top 3,000 corporations in the Philippines.

Hurry! Apply for a PSB Flexiloan between March 26 to June 29, 2001 and enjoy 0% INTEREST of up to 3 months.

YES. I am interested in applying for a PSB Flexiloan.
Name: ____________
Contact Number: ____________
Address: ____________
Publication where this ad appeared: ____________

Hurry! Call us at Tels. 885 8228 / 885 8249 to 50
843 2038 local 8517 up to 8519
FAX or mail this coupon to: PSBank Personal Loans Division
9/F PSBank Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Tindalo St., Makati City
Fax: 845 0024 / 885 8210 / 888 5196

PSB Flexiloan is available in Luzon and Metro Manila

See brochures for details.

Make it happen.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

Working harder for you.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0800 Series of 2001.

CONGRATULATIONS
PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
31st Annual Convention
THEME:
General Internal Medicine:
Back to the Future
May 9-11, 2001, PICC, MANILA
From
Herbcare
Charantia®
Ampalaya Health Drink
(pronounced tsa-ran-ti-ya)
www.charantia.com
BFAD Reg. No. FR-21182
The bitterless, pleasant-tasting and all-natural tea-like beverage that is ideal as adjunct to the treatment of diabetes
Visit the Charantia Exhibit at Booth No.3 during the PCP 31st Annual Convention
DIABETES ALERT
For Inquiries: Herbcare International, Inc. Tel:(02) 543-9850, 802-2485, 800-3252

DUREZA REPORT

Misuari republic just a dream

THE PRESIDENTIAL Assistant for Mindanao, Jesus Dureza, yesterday dismissed fears about the reported declaration of a Bangsamoro Republic in Mindanao after meeting with Nur Misuari, the governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Dureza, who met with Misuari late Sunday at the headquarters of the Moro National Liberation Front in Cabatangan, Zamboanga City, said he could not disclose what transpired at the meeting until after he had reported to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

But he seemed satisfied with the MNLF leader's explanation that such a declaration of independence was made every year when the MNLF meets for its yearly congress.

Press reports that the 4th Bangsamoro People's National Congress had passed an independence resolution at a conference held from April 29 to 30 have alarmed government officials.

President Macapagal-Arroyo directed Dureza to demand an explanation from Misuari, who was declared the first president of the republic that would supposedly cover the 10 cities and 14 provinces included in the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said the President should consider declaring a state of rebellion in Mindanao if the report was true.

"I think the government should consider re-imposing the declaration of a state of rebellion that had just been lifted in Metro Manila," said Biazon who heads the Senate internal security and defense committee.

Dureza said, however, that based on Misuari's explanation, the government had nothing to worry about.

Such an independence declaration was "presented and approved" every year at the MNLF congress, he said in an interview from Cebu City.

Dureza explained that while the MNLF has a peace agreement with the government, some sectors within the group, particularly the youth, have not abandoned the "original dream of an independent Bangsamoro republic."

"So, during the congress held a few days ago in Zamboanga City, the same resolution that has been presented every year for the past four years, that resolution still talks about their aspiration, (was presented again)," Dureza said.

Though acclaimed by the MNLF congress, it has remained an aspiration, he said.

"But it does not mean that they are abandoning the peace agreement," Dureza said.

When viewed in the "right context and (with) the right data," there was really nothing to worry about, he said.

He also echoed reports that this latest controversy about the MNLF's resurgent claims of independence was the result of the "internal problems" of the MNLF.

Misuari is reported to have been replaced by a 15-member executive council to take over his functions in the MNLF, the main Muslim secessionist movement, which accepted regional autonomy and concluded a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

Misuari is the governor of the ARMM, which administers the four provinces that make up the autonomous region. He is also the chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development.

Biazon said the reported move to declare an independent Bangsamoro state was a "serious issue," something that other Muslim leaders have said could make Misuari liable for rebellion charges. *Juliet Labog-Javellana and Armand N. Nocum*

BUILDING SANCTUARIES OF PEACE

BUILDING "SANCTUARIES OF PEACE" in the War-torn areas of Mindanao

THE YEAR THAT WAS: THE "ALL-OUT-WAR"

On this paper a year ago, *Tabang Mindanaw* launched an urgent appeal for help for thousands of internally displaced families brought about by the armed conflict which erupted last year in Mindanao. The "all-out war" affected over 150,000 families or over 797,500 persons from 97 municipalities in 18 provinces in Mindanao. Thousands of houses were completely burnt down while many more were damaged. The people were forced to abandon their farms, belongings and all other sources of livelihood. Over 480,000 people ended up in 454 evacuation centers mainly in the provinces of Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

TM HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

The response to the *Tabang Mindanaw* appeal has been significant and heartening. Over PhP74 million was raised from generous individuals, organizations, corporations, public agencies, here and abroad, including His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.. With this, *Tabang Mindanaw*, through its local Church partners in Cotabato, Kidapawan, Marawi, and Iligan, supported by countless volunteers from all faiths and sectors, was able to reach out to 26,471 evacuee-families in regular relief assistance, 10,930 persons in medical and hospitalization assistance, and 1,622 children for psychosocial program intervention.

FROM RELIEF TO REHABILITATION

To date, there are still about 23,814 evacuee-families or over 124,679 persons in various locations being served by DSWD, ICRC and *Tabang Mindanaw* in a coordinated effort. *Tabang Mindanaw* continues to extend relief assistance for 8,150 families.

But relief assistance cannot go on forever. There is a critical need for the situation to normalize so that the displaced families can safely return to their villages and start their life anew. The only ultimate recourse then is to organize a systematic return and assist these families in the rehabilitation of their war-torn communities.

IRRP: BUILDING SANCTUARIES OF PEACE

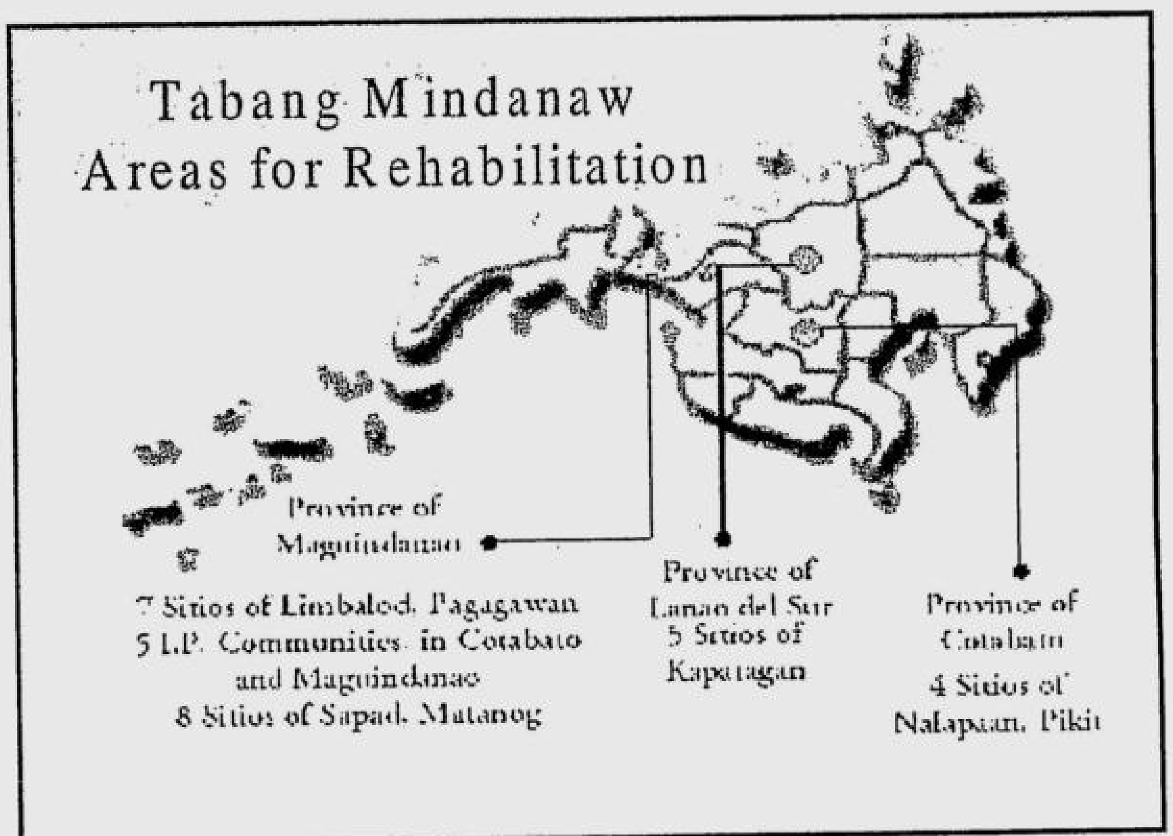
In response to these realities, *Tabang Mindanaw* launched last September its Integrated Return and Rehabilitation Program (IRRP) based on a framework of peace and integral human development. The end-objective of the IRRP is that the tri-people of Mindanao, the Muslims, Christians and *Lumads*, will deepen their respect for one another and build together their communities of peace. This is made possible with the support of the MILF and the AFP by respecting the people's "sanctuaries of peace" and keeping them free from armed conflict. Our pilot "Sanctuary of Peace" has been established in the four sitios of Barangay Nalapaan in Pikit, Cotabato with 387 tri-people families now harvesting new crops and living in peace.

SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR PEACE

We are heartened by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's personal advocacy to return peace to Mindanao. We support her call for peace to pave the way for the safe return of the evacuee-families to their communities and establish their "sanctuaries of peace". Under the Macapagal-Arroyo Administration, we are confident that war will NO longer be the option. It is time for healing and rebuilding.

AN APPEAL FOR YOUR NEEDED SUPPORT

Every evacuee's dream is to return to his own "Sanctuary of Peace." This is possible only if we were to open our hearts once more and extend our helping hands. They plead for peace to reclaim their human dignity shattered by war. *Tabang Mindanaw* is inviting you once again to help rebuild their lives. They need support for shelter, livelihood, schools, farm inputs and animals, water pumps and more. We are ready to begin work in 29 sitios with 3,000 families in four war-torn provinces (see map) where the communities have made their declarations for peace with the tacit support of the AFP and the MILF. We can bring this hope to as many communities in as many areas that your help can provide. It costs us an average of PhP 10,000.00 to rehabilitate one family or PhP1 million per sitio. Can you help us fulfill their dreams NOW?


Tabang Mindanaw
Areas for Rehabilitation
Province of Maguindanao
7 Sitios of Limbalod, Pagagawan
5 I.P. Communities in Cotabato and Maguindanao
8 Sitios of Sapad, Matanog
Province of Lanao del Sur
5 Sitios of Kapatagan
Province of Cotabato
4 Sitios of Nalapaan, Pikit

How you can Help

Cash/Check Donations may be deposited to the *Tabang Mindanaw* Account in any of the following Banks nationwide

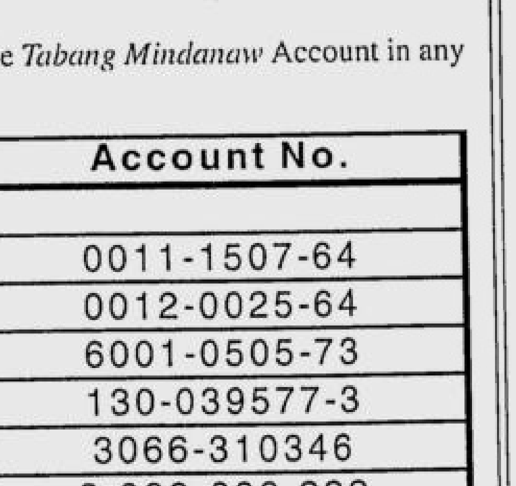
Bank	Account No.
Bank of Philippine Islands	
Peso Account	0011-1507-64
Dollar Account	0012-0025-64
BPI-Family Bank	6001-0505-73
ChinaBank	130-039577-3
Metrobank	3066-310346
RCBC	3-000-699-232

For Inquiries, contact:

Ms. Merlie "Milet" B. Mendoza
Executive Coordinator

Mr. Benjamin F. Abadiano
IRRP Coordinator
Mr. Leo A. Nalugon
IP Program Coordinator for SA Learning Farms and Water Systems Development

c/o Assisi Development Foundation, Inc.
Units 503-506 Prestige Tower
Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: **(632) 6321001 - 03/6365855**
Fax Number: **(632) 6327844**
Email: **tabang@mindgate.net**
Website: **www.gmanetwork.com** OR
home.mindgate.net/tabangmindanaw



Task Force Members

Assisi Development Foundation, Inc , *Co-Chair*/Ayala Foundation, Inc., *Co- Chair*/ Philippine Daily Inquirer/Metrobank Foundation, Inc./GMA-7 Foundation, Inc./ AY Foundation, Inc./League of Corporate Foundations, Inc./Office of Ms. Margie Moran-Floirendo/PISO for UNITY, PEACE & PROGRESS Foundation, Inc./ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc./Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR)

SPACE DONATED BY PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NGAYON NA MAGHANDA NG KODIGO!

SAMPLE OFFICIAL BALLOT
May 14, 2001

Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive mark on any part of this ballot.

SENATORS

1. ______
2. ______
3. ______
4. ______
5. ______
6. ______
7. ______
8. ______
9. ______
10. ______
11. ______
12. ______
13. ______

CONGRESSMAN ______
REPRESENTATIVE ______
PARTY LIST ______

Select one from among the Political Parties, Sectoral Parties (Labor, Peasant, Urban Poor, Indigenous Cultural Communities, Women, Veterans, Elderly, Disabled, Fisherfolk, Overseas Workers, Youth or Professionals) Organizations or Coalitions enumerated in the certified list posted on the voting booth.

GOVERNOR ______

VICE GOVERNOR ______

MEMBERS SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN/PROVINCIAL BOARD

1. ______
2. ______
3. ______
4. ______
5. ______

CITY MAYOR ______
CITY VICE MAYOR ______

MEMBERS SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD CITY COUNCIL

1. ______
2. ______
3. ______
4. ______
5. ______
6. ______
7. ______
8. ______
9. ______
10. ______

Hindi kukulangin sa 27 ang mga dapat mong iboto sa araw ng halalan. Matatandaan mo ba kung sino-sino ang mapipili mo?

Hindi natin dapat ipagsapalaran ang pagboto. Ang nakataya dito ay ang kinabukasan natin, ng ating mga anak, at ng ating bayan. Tandaan: hindi lamang 13 mga senador ang dapat iboto, kasama na rin ang mayor, vice-mayor, party list, congressman, governor, vice-governor at mga konsehal.

MAHIRAP BUMOTO KUNG WALA KANG KODIGO.

Matuto.
Bantayan ang Boto.
Umasenso.

Isang paalala sa mga
Pilipinong botante
mula sa:

"IT IS BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS."
NAMFREL

ADBOARD
ADVERTISING BOARD OF THE PHILIPPINES

GLOBE TELECOM

AND THIS PUBLICATION

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 149
ISSN 0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher

LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief

JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor

ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor

ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor

NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor

PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor

GERRY LIRIO
City Editor

JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Senior Deskperson

AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman

ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President

RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing

DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services

FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising

GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Ingredients of violence

EDITORIAL

WHY was the mob that laid siege to Malacañang last week so angry, so hate-filled, so violent? The facile explanation is that it was plied with drugs and gin. But not all of those who attacked the Palace had taken shabu or marijuana and not all had drunk liquor. Probably one-fourth of them had taken drugs, tests conducted by the Department of Health showed. Probably a fifth had been plied with gin.

Drugs and liquor were just some of the factors. "Edsa III" had other ingredients for inciting mob violence and an assault on the seat of power. Bring thousands of poor people to a place near where a deposed president, who passed himself off as the "champion of the poor," is being detained. Harp on the humiliation to which he was supposedly subjected with his arrest, fingerprinting, the taking of his mug shots, his initial detention at a hot, simply furnished cell in Camp Crame.

Keep the crowd in one place for six days under the oppressive summer heat. Keep pounding on the theme of the rich versus the poor, "us" against "them." Have senatorial candidates, party leaders and other assorted personalities deliver inflammatory speeches on the last night calling for an attack on Malacañang. *Lusob! Sugod!* (Attack! Advance!)

And the mob did attack, battering down several police checkpoints, overwhelming the police and army barricades on Mendiola and J.P. Laurel, advancing as far as Gate 7 of Malacañang and coming within several feet of overrunning the Presidential Palace.

What thoughts, what feelings, what force, what rage brought them that far? Surely, it was not just the influence of drugs or liquor that stirred up such anger in the mob. Surely, it was not just the payment of money or the promise of it that made them commit violence.

The violence on Mendiola and J. P. Laurel had its roots in decades of frustration, hatred, anger that had been simmering in the masses because of their poverty, their neglect by the government and the perceived apathy of the rich. They had identified themselves with Estrada (*"Erap para sa mahirap"*—"Erap for the poor") and they not only sympathized with him but empathized with him. Whatever was being done to him was also being done to them. *Tinatadyakan sila habang nakahandusay na sa pusali.* (They were being kicked while they were already in the gutter.) They thought that they should fight; they had nothing to lose. And so they fought the police and the military with all the weapons that they could gather.

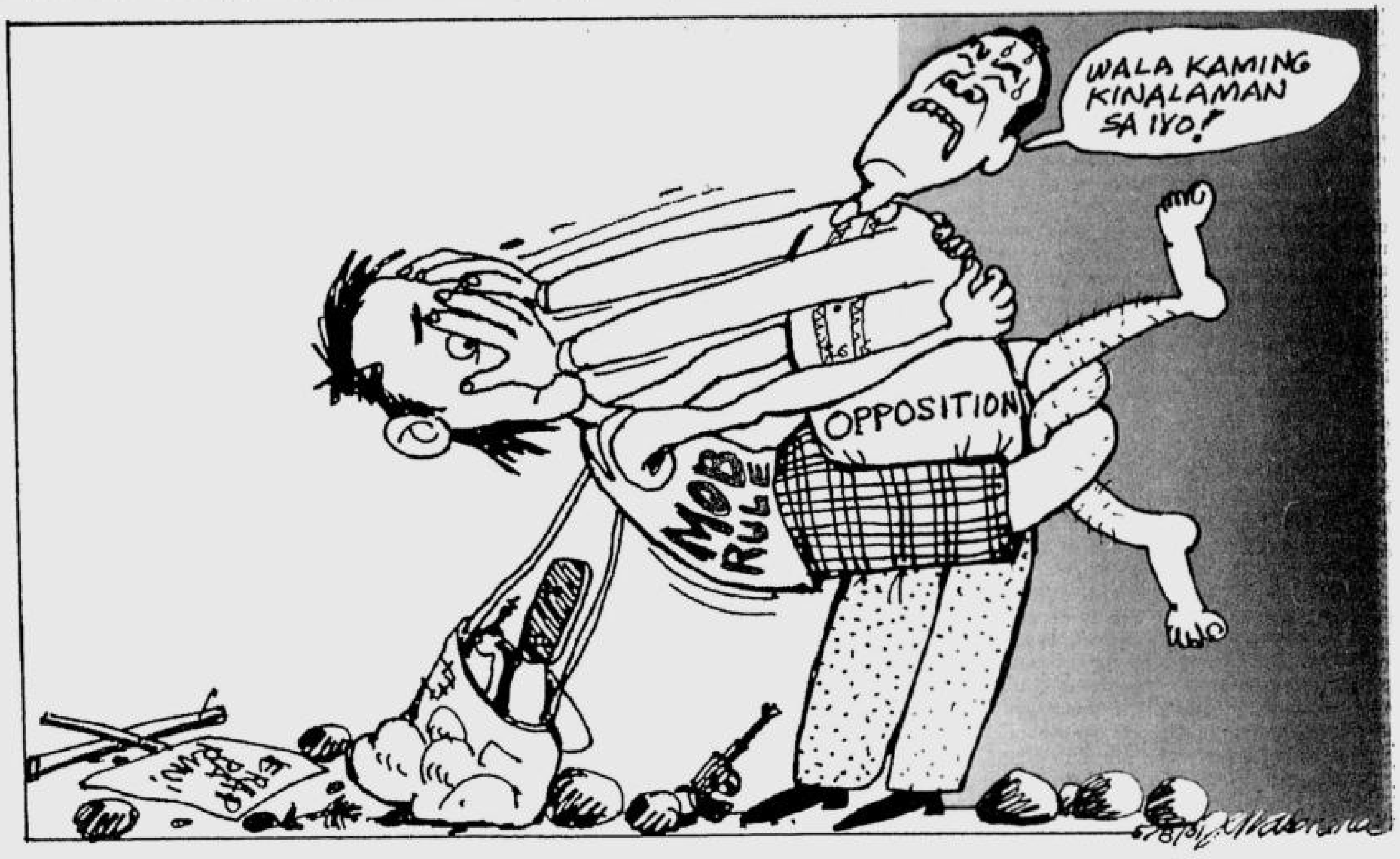
Fortunately, the police and the military strictly followed a policy of maximum tolerance—some people even called it "mega maximum tolerance." Had scores or hundreds of the marchers been gunned down, probably we would be in the midst of rioting or civil war now. Blood would be running in the streets.

For the moment, it appears that the "rebellion"—that is how the Macapagal administration calls it—has been contained. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the other day lifted her declaration of a state of rebellion, although the police and the military remain on the alert because several suspected leaders of the assault on Malacañang remain at large.

But the suppression of the mob violence that began at "Edsa III" does not solve the problem. The *masa* at "Edsa III" was called the Great Unwashed. But most of them could not afford to take a bath every day because water is a precious commodity to them. They were called *"mabaho," "mabantot"* (foul-smelling, ill-smelling). But they could not have afforded deodorants, not to mention perfumes. They were called *"bayaran"* (a paid crowd). But P100 or P50 meant the difference between having meals or going hungry for the day. They were called *"mangmang"* (ignorant) or *"walang pinagaralan"* (uneducated). But how could the very poor afford a decent education? Most of their time is spent on the sheer effort at ensuring their survival.

The concept of a "social volcano" that is waiting to explode has been repeated so many times that it has almost become a cliché. But no amount of temporary palliatives, quick visits to depressed areas, photo ops and other propaganda gimmicks will cool down that volcano and solve the deeply rooted problem of poverty. A long-term, radical solution will have to be worked out by the government and all sectors of society.

Unless the growing gap between the rich and the poor is reduced, unless the masses are given a greater opportunity to help lift themselves from the mire of poverty, the potential for social unrest and civil disturbance will remain. The failed assault on Malacañang was a wake-up call to the entire nation. The nation can ignore that call only at its peril.


WALA KAMING KINALAMAN SA IYO!
OPPOSITION
MOB RULE
ERAP PA RIN!

Lacson afraid of being murdered if he surrenders

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

NOW that the Supreme Court has allowed Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda to post bail, expect other suspects in the rebellion case to do the same thing, especially former PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson. A close confidante of Lacson told me that he is eager to face his accusers as he is innocent of the charges against him, but he does not want to surrender to the police because he is afraid. Afraid not of the evidence against him but afraid that he would be killed once he is in the hands of some top police officers.

Looking at the situation objectively, this fear is not mere paranoia but a very real danger. While he was PNP chief, Lacson incurred the enmity of many of his fellow officers by enforcing strict discipline in his effort to reform and change the public image of the police force. He sent to jail not only many criminals but also some high-ranking police officers linked to criminal syndicates involved in the highly lucrative kidnapping for ransom and bank robbery. Others he removed from positions of power because of corruption. These officers are now in top PNP positions. One of them would even be his jailer once he surrenders. And there the danger lies.

It would be so easy for them to dump Lacson with other hard-core criminals where he would be conveniently murdered in a jail riot, or "killed in a shootout" while resisting arrest, or "killed while trying to escape." After what he is accused of doing to the Kuratong Baleleng gang members, his potential judges and executioners can justify his murder as justice coming home to roost and banish it from their conscience.

My informant said that Lacson's refusal to surrender is not an admission of guilt, as it is understandably misinterpreted, but an indication of his strong will to survive and prove his innocence. That is why he made overtures to surrender to the Armed Forces chief of staff and be put under his custody, where he believes he would be safe.

With the Supreme Court ruling, however, surrender will no longer be necessary, as his lawyers can post bail for him and he will be free—temporarily at least. But that means he will have to constantly watch his back since his enemies will not stop trying to wreak vengeance.

As an insider in the PNP, Lacson knows a lot about the police force and its members and who are the bad eggs and who are the good ones. Nobody can deny that when he was its chief, he was able to discipline the police force and improve its image. Nobody can deny either that Lacson was able to minimize kidnappings, bank robberies and holdups. But as soon as he was replaced, kidnappings, big time robberies and drug trafficking returned with a vengeance as if the crime syndicates got the signal that "happy days are here again." Too bad that Lacson's association with Estrada contaminated his public image so that it is now easy to wage a demolition job against him. As I see it, Lacson would have been able to help the Macapagal administration, at least in reforming the police force, had he been given the chance.

In addition, if it is true that Lacson had no direct participation in the attack on Malacañang, he would be an important source of information on who were the leaders of the plot and what went on behind the scenes. For one thing, Lacson was not heard to harangue the Edsa Shrine mob to urge them to attack Malacañang as the other alleged leaders did. Prosecutors should be courting him to turn state witness instead of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

* * *

While Enrile and Maceda are out on bail, free as birds, the rabble whom they allegedly enticed to attack Malacañang, are still in jail, unable to post the P200,000 bail for each. Enrile posted a P100,000 bail bond while Maceda paid only P80,000 (chicken feed for them), but the urban poor who followed their alleged orders are required to pay P200,000 each, more money than they can count or have ever seen in their whole lives. They are asking wealthy politicians like Enrile, Maceda, Santiago, Gringo Honasan, senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal, heiress of an old-rich family, and other Estrada allies who allegedly gave them their marching order, to come to their aid, but all of the politicians have deserted them. Urban poor from Mindanao, who have been shipped here by political leaders to boost the ranks of the Edsa protesters, have also been left in the lurch and cannot go home. They are marooned here, and it is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, ironically the person they tried to depose, who is helping them return home.

And speaking of state witnesses, why doesn't the government release them without bail in exchange for their testimony against the politicians and recruiters who manipulated and exploited them? These urban poor, who were made cannon fodder, are the least guilty. Naïve and hungry, they did not realize what they were made to do. The most guilty are the politicians who used them for their selfish ends and are now washing their hands of the misadventure. Justice dictates that it is the leaders who should be punished, not their pawns.

The easily manipulated poor should learn a lesson from the "Edsa III" fiasco: don't allow politicians to use you for a handful of money and mouthfuls of promises. They will always run away and abandon you once the going gets rough. It has always been like that and it always will be.

A tale of two Edsas

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE asked me in a letter why I keep putting "Edsa III" in quotation marks. Another asked me what I meant when I said that numbers alone do not make an Edsa, or people power.

These are good questions and deserve an answer. Especially in the light of Anthony Spaeth's article on Edsa II, which came out in Time Magazine last January. Readers will recall that Spaeth scoffed at that show of popular will, calling it mob rule and suggested that it was merely conscripted by the elite for its own purposes.

That is the same charge veterans of Edsa II have leveled at "Edsa III." That gathering, they say, was nothing more than a mob, roistered by the losers of Edsa II for their own purposes. So what is the difference between Edsa II and "Edsa III"?

Well, at least I know what the difference is not. It is not the kind Jaime Cardinal Sin kept pointing out during the height of "Edsa III," which is that Edsa II was holy while "Edsa III" was not. I saw Fr. Soc Villegas two weeks ago on TV complaining to his audience at Mt. Carmel about how the throng at Edsa defaced the Edsa Shrine. One letter-writer told me she saw the acts of vandalism with her own eyes.

I have no doubt their complaints are true. The throng that gathered at Edsa also included Asistio's protégés, who are thugs, hooligans and professional defacers and vandals. But to judge the entire "Edsa III" in those terms? In spirit at least, that is not unlike the joke that says the difference between Edsa II and "Edsa III" is that the people who joined "Edsa III" had more bad-smelling (*mapanghi*) piss.

Which makes you wonder who in the end was truly **de-facing** (what a miraculously meaningful word) the Edsa Shrine: the faceless masses who suddenly found a face and the voiceless masses who suddenly found a voice, and in finding them started maniacally scrawling gibberish on walls not unlike "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin"? Or the faces turned heavenwards who can only see holiness in the metal and concrete of the Edsa Shrine but not in the flesh and blood that animate it?

Holiness is a tricky thing. One of the placards carried by a toothless old woman at Edsa said: "Cardinal Sin, *sugo ng demonyo sa Pilipinas*." When I saw it, I remembered an old song of Bob Dylan called, "God on our side." It talks of both camps at war claiming God is on their side.

But there are real differences between Edsa II and "Edsa III," which go beyond the tautological "Because we were right and they were wrong." In the end, those differences boil down to this: Edsa II had the force to gather a materially indignant nation to topple down a morally bankrupt government. "Edsa III" had force only to compel a morally legitimate government to lift up a materially bankrupt people.

Edsa II, like Edsa I, was an explosion of outrage over a ruler that was widely seen as no longer fit to rule. The explosion came from a cross-section of the population, and not just from the elite and middle-class. For all its seeming spontaneity, it did not happen overnight, which is what Spaeth and foreign observers, failed to see. It was the product of a morality play, the impeachment trial, which played out to Filipinos, rich and poor alike, over several months. That was what made it a *masa* phenomenon too, that was what enabled the poor to relate to it. Of course, Cory Aquino and Cardinal Sin and Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would later claim authorship of it, by pinning down the explosion when it came to Edsa, a patch of earth to which they have claimed a franchise. But they are not its true authors, they are just its usurpers.

From the start, Edsa II had a very clear purpose. That was to topple a bad government. That was to oust a tyrant.

That was not what "Edsa III" was. "Edsa III" was also an explosion of outrage, but not against a corrupt and ineffective ruler, only at an act of government the poor perceived to be unfair. It was another case of Flor Contemplacion, as I've said before, though one multiplied tenfold. The monumental irony there being that Erap, who cannot possibly be another impoverished Contemplacion by any rational reckoning, should be embraced by the poor as one of their own. That deserves a whole library unto itself. But that was what the cries of anguish were all about: Erap had been maltreated like Contemplacion by a government as alien as Singapore's.

That was all "Edsa III" was. Before last Tuesday, I kept telling interviewers that I couldn't see how "Edsa III" could be turned into an attempt to unseat Ms Macapagal. I could only see, I said, how it could be turned into a powerful weapon for the elections. Each time I got asked about its impact on the elections, I replied, "Hope for the best, prepare for the worst." I could not see, I said, how people in their right minds would turn it into a power grab as the ensuing junta would be the hardest thing to legitimize. And I could not see, I said, how people in their right minds would use it to spark violence since that would turn public opinion against them. I said I expected the leaders of "Edsa III" to rattle their sabers, but I also expected them also to see that the threat was more powerful than the execution.

As it turned out, the critical phrase was "in their right minds." I do not know how Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago ever earned the reputation for being brilliant, or even merely for using their heads. What they did was dumb. It was trying to squeeze blood from stone, or trying to extract more substance from an event than it could possibly yield. "Edsa III" had no moral force to topple the government, only legal gobbledygook which was never its strength to begin with. That is its fundamental difference with Edsa II. Had Enrile and Santiago recognized its limits, they might have gotten away with murder in the elections. As it is, they will not get away with murder in court.

But that too is what "Edsa III" will be remembered for, as being led by a bunch of people with no concept of limits. As being led by a bunch of people with a fatal flaw (I will not call it a tragic flaw, lest it give them stature), the fatal flaw of greed and arrogance. A group of people who, seeing the flood of humanity that tumbled out into the streets because of their own hurts, thought they could use it for more than they bargained for. A group of people who thought they could feel the crown on their heads when all there was was the hangman's noose round their necks.

And there is one image the public will always remember of the end of "Edsa III." That is Santiago sitting in her office with a gun on her desk, ready to confront the people who would arrest her. In fact, the men in the ambulance never meant to arrest her, they only meant to commit her.

'Puwersa ng Kwarta'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PEOPLE Power Coalition leaders who read the warning of Bacolod civic leader Nena de Leon about some provincial folks' intention to simply write "13-0" on the ballots, called up this column to confirm that they had encountered this problem too in Tawi-Tawi and Sulu. The campaign for 13-0 has caught on, especially after the May 1 riots, but writing "13-0" instead of spelling out the senatorial candidates' names would render the ballot invalid. The PPC leaders should take to the tri-media and the campaign trail to correct this.

* * *

How will the May 1 uprising affect the chances of the opposition candidates? Will they produce the much-coveted 13-0 for the PPC? I submit that if all the factors were even, the PPC has a good chance to score a sweep, as the campaign of the opposition is crumbling in many places. For instance, the campaign headquarters of Puwersa ng Masa's Ping Lacson in Davao has been abandoned since he went into hiding.

But the PPC leaders are hounded by the prospect of opposition candidates unloading money by the hundreds of millions, especially on election day. This has come to be known as "Puwersa ng Kwarta" (PngK) across the nation. On the other hand, the PPC appears to be really cash-strapped. At the moment it's only the Estrada-Cojuangco camp and its allies that have money.

* * *

For instance, Cagayan de Oro Mayor Gov. Vicente Emano, an Erap loyalist, is running for reelection against Senate President Nene Pimentel's bartopnotcher son, Koko, while running for reelection as governor is Emano's protégé, Antonio Calingin, who was recently suspended after 53 cases were filed against him before the Sandiganbayan, including his failure to account for P38 million in public funds. Calingin is fighting back with a vengeance against his Lakas vice governor, Danny Laghas, who assumed the governorship after Calingin's ouster.

The Emano-Pimentel contest should be interesting because Emano is really pitted against Nene Pimentel, who's campaigning for his neophyte son and heir. Observers note, however, that Emano seems to be taking it easy even at the height of campaign season, and speculation are that he plans to unleash "PngK" come election day. The Cagayanons, however, if they use their heads, should put their political destiny in the hands of the bright and personable Koko Pimentel, who has his entire future ahead of him, instead of an old warlord like Emano.

* * *

Reports indicate that the Erap camp will unleash PngK especially against the candidates who had been very vocal against the deposed president. Among the targets are the father-and-son tandem in Bukidnon of former Rep. Joe Zubiri and reelectionist Rep. Miguel Zubiri as well as Misamis Oriental reelectionist Rep. Oscar Moreno, the House prosecutor who handled the banking cases against Erap with admirable expertise. Joe Z. is running for governor against Nemesio Beltran, a candidate of former Gov. Carlitos Fortich, an Erap loyalist. Zubiri is way ahead in the surveys, but talk is that Beltran will pour P20 million on May 14. Joe Z. approached the Iglesia ni Kristo for support but the sect asked him in turn to back Loi Estrada and Ping Lacson. Joe said no thanks.

The popular Oca Moreno is running against Alen Orsal, a contractor-doctor. In Misamis Occidental, the Kuratong Baleleng is taking a prominent role, with the notorious Parohinog brothers running for office. In Pagadian City, the 51st Battalion is said to be very much on the side of Erap's environment secretary, Antonio Cerilles, who is running for governor of Zamboanga del Sur against the long-time undefeated governor, Isidoro Real.

* * *

After the smoke of the May 1 pro-Erap assault on Malacañang cleared, the opposition began its Pontius Pilate act in a press conference that day. Its leaders claimed the violent riots were spontaneous and unorganized, and sprang from the long-standing anger of the poor at the rich. There was the resentment of the poor, to be sure, but all indications are that the opposition leaders manipulated them to storm the Palace. Consider the following: on the night of April 30, 10 big trucks arrived at the Edsa Shrine from Antipolo bearing many hundreds of tribal folk from Rizal, courtesy of Gov. Ito Ynares, a die-hard Erap loyalist. Prior to this, the tribal folk were made to attend a seminar from April 25 to 30 in a big place in Cainta where they were incessantly bombarded with an intense hate campaign against the Macapagal administration and sympathy for the deposed president. The talks were conducted by "priests," while the participants were fed by religious "sisters." The seminar people were consuming about 20 sacks of rice each day.

* * *

As May 1 approached, some tribal folk got uneasy as they could hear words like "*Lusob*" and "Mendiola." In fact, one or two tribesmen left the seminar. When the tribal folk were trucked to the Edsa Shrine on the night of April 30, they were told that they were going to a rally where they would see lots of *artistas*. That night, however, many people at Edsa were given the "Marka Demonyo" (gin) to imbibe and the crowds began to get quite rowdy. "*Mainit na mainit na*," as someone who was there put it. Anti-Erap people who later helped clean up the shrine said they found many empty gin bottles. At about 2 a.m. on May 1, the Rizal folk were awakened and told they would be taken to Mendiola. When they asked why, they were told, "*Mag-rarally tayo doon*." They began to wonder some more after they were instructed that if they should encounter police along the way, they were to tell them, "*Mga NPA kami—Erap pa rin*." They realized that the idea was to make the soldiers angry.

* * *

As they marched toward Malacañang, the Rizal folk became more afraid but the huge crowd simply pushed them forward. In the melee and violence that ensued, some of them were able to run away, but they lost their rubber slippers. They were hungry and sleepless and they had no money. The tribesmen walked northward toward Caloocan, but the problem was that the only landmark familiar to them was the Shaw Boulevard crossing where they would take their ride back to Rizal whenever they went to Manila. From Caloocan, they headed south and began walking toward the hills of Rizal.

By then these tribal people were very mad at the way they had been used. But as though to rub salt on their wounds, when they got to the compound where the seminar was held to collect the P500 promised to each of them, it was already padlocked. When finally someone from inside came out, he had the temerity to ask the exhausted and hungry tribal folk, "*Lumaban ba kayo o tumakbo kayo? Bakit namin kayo babayaran?*" Ynares, like many local executives, is now washing his hands, but the tribesmen know better.

Surviving 'Survivor'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MUCH as I resisted, there was no helping getting sucked into the household vortex swirling around the "adventure-reality" TV series "Survivor." By accident, I happened to catch the initial episode and swore to avoid it from thereon.

Critics have already slammed its pretense at "reality." How "real," after all, could the action and interaction get with TV cameras recording every sight and sound bite? I also found the contestants whiny and petty and pretty much a bunch of wusses. And the only participant who showed some spunk, the prison guard Debb, was voted out at the end of the first show because she was too "bossy." Well, I thought, if Debbie hadn't been around to light a fire under her teammates' rumps, they'd still be standing around, complaining about insects and the humidity.

I also had a dispute with the entire concept, which was not really "survival of the fittest," but survival of the canniest and most "politically" astute. The point seemed to be to identify for elimination teammates who posed the greatest threat or offered the stiffest competition. This, even if those voted out possessed skills and abilities that would come in handy in surviving the harsh conditions of life in the Australian outback. Instead of fostering such virtues as teamwork and cooperation, "Survivor" encouraged instead individualism and intrigue, and oddly enough, conformism and sucking-up, too.

What a really Western orientation, I thought. Filipinos, and I think most Third World denizens, would have focused at once on the daunting task of survival and hunkered down to marshalling resources and skills. The 16 Americans, divided into two teams, proceeded to cut each other down.

* * *

BUT in the end, I succumbed to the mounting suspense as curiosity got the better of me. Particularly since my own children raced to the TV set each Friday, anxious to find out who among the castaways would be voted out next.

Thus it was that I found myself handing out "titles" to the contestants: "Most Irritating" to Kimmie, the vegetarian who whined incessantly about most everything, especially the fate of chickens given to her team as a prize. "Most Detestable" to Jerri, the "aspiring actress" who proved to be a master of intrigue and behaved as if the world revolved around her. (I wasn't alone, since entertainment stories bannered the day after her departure: "Jerri Ousted, A Nation Rejoices.") "Most Astig" was Alicia, the personal trainer who had a very public run-in with Kimmie, and was truly an impressive sight with her buffed form and take-no-prisoners attitude.

"Survivor" runner-up Colby was deemed the ladies' heartthrob, but to be honest I found Kel, a captain in the military, the most attractive. Too bad Jerri the witch found him a much too convenient target and had him kicked out early on.

* * *

AS THE DAYS wore on, and the "Survivors" neared the end of their 42-day "wandering" in the outback, one had to feel sorry for these folks. They were residents of the world's most affluent—and cushy—society forced to live like Australian aborigines or, for that matter, like the average Third World-er.

My husband and I watched, flabbergasted, as one team proceeded to celebrate their first fish catch by asking Keith, the professional chef, to fillet and fry the fish, throwing away the head and the rest of the protein-rich parts. "I would have made it into *sinigang*!" the hubby, ever-practical, exclaimed.

One month into their stay and the hapless castaways still didn't know how to cook rice, using about a cup of water for a potful of rice grains. No wonder they ended up eating half-cooked rice that resembled *gawgaw* instead of fluffy steamed rice.

Toward the end, they began complaining about a general feeling of weakness and lassitude, preferring to sleep all day and conserve their strength for the challenges, rather than go hunting and foraging. By the 35th day, their hair began to fall off. And when they would win rewards, such as pizza during a food auction, or a feast at the Great Barrier Reef or in a camp of Aussie cowboys, they would throw all caution to the wind and scarf down like there was no tomorrow. No wonder they all suffered the runs shortly after. So much for survival skills.

* * *

IN THE END, after the jury chose the final and winning Survivor, the miserable conditions in the Outback were replaced by a studio in New York done up to resemble the cave where they held their voting. Good-bye misery, hello 15 minutes of fame!

The studio even held a touch-feely group interview with the castaways, probing their feelings about playing the "game" and their relations with each other, including the back-stabbing and betrayals.

But left unasked was the question: How did it feel like living the life led by the majority of the world's population? Because, whether they realized it or not, the castaways' lot of misery, hunger and exposure to the elements are precisely the conditions under which the majority of the world's poor live. Even their predicament, living from moment to moment, day to day, under the direction and orders of someone more powerful who could withdraw or grant privileges, mimics the plight of the powerless and marginalized around the world.

Did the castaways realize this as they lay—weak, hungry and helpless—bemoaning the fate that brought them where they were? More important, did the viewers, especially those in the First World, get the connection? Or did it remain, for them, simply a game?

The castaways at least had the luxury of knowing it was temporary; that their old life would begin once more at the end of 42 days. And for one lucky castaway, there was the prospect of a million dollars and the opportunities offered by fame and glory. But what of the majority, for whom hardship, hunger and helplessness is their daily, inescapable lot?

The Sangley connection

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MANY events that happened in the past remain basically one-dimensional because we have no record of how the participants felt, there being no diaries or letters written or preserved. If reports like General Ricarte's account of the Tejeros Convention exist, they are reticent about the main protagonist's actual words and feelings. The thoughts of both Andres Bonifacio and Gregoria de Jesus went to the grave with them.

Jose Rizal's last hours is the closest we'll come to a first-hand account, but again it's curiously unreal because we do not know what any other member of his family said or felt. No interaction was recorded.

All this brings us to the question of the Chinese about whom not much is written (except for the platitudes) despite the important role they have played in our history (from Limahong to Atong Ang). Yet from accounts of persecutions, their experience couldn't have been all that pleasant.

Even up to the second half of the 19th century, the Chinese couldn't be buried in the same cemetery as Catholics. According to Mallat, La Loma was already around in the 1840s. It was expanded in 1878 when Gobernadorcillo Mariano Fernando Yu Chingco bought land from the Dominicans at a cost of P14,000, with a community section reserved for the poor whose bodies could not be repatriated to China. He also spent another P33,980 erecting a temple called Chong Hock Tong for ceremonial purposes.

At the beginning of the Spanish conquest, many of the religious orders looked upon the Philippines as a jumping point to China and regarded the Chinese they encountered as objects for conversion. For this purpose the Dominicans ruled over the Parian and operated the Hospital de San Gabriel in Binondo to look after the medical needs of the Chinese. However, it was really the Chinese who supported the hospital from their "community fund." One imagines that there must have been quite a number of deathbed conversions.

In 1766, the hospital was closed and the Chinese were expelled for the nth time due to their sympathy and support for the British invaders. The hospital never reopened, probably to their relief since no one asked their opinion about Western style medicines and methods.

A century later in 1879, Antonio Yap Caong, the *gobernadorcillo*, collected half a million pesos and established a hospital called Ch'ung-uen I-yuen in La Loma during a cholera epidemic since San Juan de Dios was closed to them. It had the advantage of offering free services for the poor and utilized Chinese medicines and methods.

After the Parian was demolished in 1790, the church and the parish were transferred to San Gabriel and the Chinese were dispersed to Binondo and Sta. Cruz. This made assimilation much easier; in a sense the Chinese were no longer isolated in their ghetto.

The Spaniards were no longer obsessed with converting them, probably finding the business of making money more rewarding. The Chinese could even settle in the provinces whether they were Catholics or not, wear a queue if they felt like doing so (at one point in time they were not allowed to do so), and dress as they pleased.

It had been important once to acquire a baptismal sponsor (hence the questionable connotations of the word "*padrino*"?) who acted as protector. Prominent Spaniards were often godfathers at these rites and frequently gave their names (such Antonio Roxas Chua, Mariano Velasco Chua Chengco and so on). Sometimes the Chinese dropped their Chinese names and would be known as "el Chino Palanca," for example.

The most powerful Chinese of the late 19th century was Tan Quien-Sien whose baptismal sponsor was Col. Carlos Palanca y Gutierrez. He was one of the Chinese in 1886 who traveled to Hong Kong to petition for a Chinese consulate in the Philippines together with Francisco Manzano Yap-tico, Antonio Yap Caong and Joaquin Barrera Limjap, a sugar, hemp and tobacco merchant originally from Fukien. This only became a reality in 1899 when the Americans assumed control of the Philippines and the first Chinese consul arrived.

It was also in the same year that the first Chinese school, Chung-His Hsueh-hsiao, was established. The majority of the students were *mestizo* Sangleys who learned a combination of Confucian philosophy and Western business practices. Prior to this wealthy Chinese sent their children to study in China.

If the Spaniards were no longer keen on converting the Chinese, the latter no longer felt it necessary to convert to Catholicism either. However, the influence of Chinese culture was evident in some religious practices. The Gremio de Chinos de Binondo celebrated the feast of La Naval (Our Lady of the Rosary) with a procession through the streets of Binondo accompanied by Chinese musicians and fireworks, while for the feast of San Nicolas they built barges in the form of pagodas for the fluvial parade down the Pasig River.

A little known incident occurred in 1887 on the feast of La Naval when Governor Terrero gave precedence to the Gremio de Naturales even if the Chinese *mestizos* were the main source of financing the festivities. Immediately the *mestizo* Sangleys and the Chinese Catholics withdrew their support, forcing the cancellation of the eight-day festival except for the final day. When the parish priest protested, he was removed from his position. Chinese and *mestizo* shops closed in protest.

The following year, Terrero reversed his decision.

A letter to Erap

Alice

HOW are you doing, Mr. Ex-president? I heard you lost 25 pounds since leaving Malacañang. I guess there are fewer reasons for you to party now. Or maybe you just miss presidential pampering at the Guest House or wherever it was your Midnight Cabinet used to wine and dine.

It's been more than three months since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over as President, and I can't say I miss you too much. I rather miss Bill Clinton, though. He looks smarter than President Dubya Bush. And for all the Kenneth Starr hullabaloo surrounding his sexual impropriety at the Oval Office, you can at least credit the man for not lavishing Monica Lewinsky with a humongous mansion or a gold-colored BMW for her, uh, companionship. I find it refreshing too that another Clinton is in public office. I always thought that Senator Hillary was the one wearing the pants in the family.

YOUNGBLOOD

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

Too bad Doktora Loi isn't doing as well on the campaign trail. I was looking forward to watching Senadora Loi put Chavit Singson to task for gifting her with a mere DVD player when John Osmeña and Tessie Oreta got a cool P1 million each. But I guess not all Estradas are destined for public office. Which reminds me, how is your son Jinggoy? Please tell him that I will support his movie career if he promises not to run for public office again.

May I also inquire about the criminal charges against you? I hope you are not having sleepless nights over your triskaidekaphobia. I know there are 13 justices who will decide on your fate and the 13-0 Movement wants to enfeeble your Puwersa.

You don't have to fret too much though, Mr. Ex-president. The administration is proving to be quite compassionate. It has decided to consolidate the charges against you so that you won't have to be found guilty of 13 counts of plunder, but just one.

I guess by now you may be wondering why I have to bring up all these unpleasant matters. It's just that time has a way of making you forget the past. It has only been several weeks since a great mass of Filipinos served notice of your eviction from Malacañang and then thousands of your supporters wanted to put your back there.

I don't want to forget the past, Mr. Estrada. I was too busy sucking on my pacifier during martial law and too young to know the mistakes of succeeding administrations. I was only 6 when Tita Cory became our first woman president and was a sixth-grader when Ramos took over. My world then was only black and white, no shades of gray in between.

I think that was where you erred, Mr. Ex-president. You couldn't even distinguish between black and white, between right and wrong, You were good at many things, at the expense of the important things. You wanted to be a good lover but became a philandering husband. You wanted to be a good friend but became a corrupt president. You wanted to become a good provider but ended up a plunderer.

Now maybe in a less vigilant world you and your cronies would be able to walk off untouched. You would still be a reviled figure in history but the people would eventually come to tolerate your excesses like they do Imelda Marcos'. I trust that People Power II was a sign that we are a vigilant people after all. I trust that we will always remember all that needs to be remembered. I trust that your misdeeds won't go unpunished even if I have to camp outside the Office of the Ombudsman to see this through.

Don't you worry now, Mr. Ex-president. I will visit you in prison once justice has been served. I won't pass up the chance to hear you sing "Kahit Na Magtiis." *Tiyak 'yon.*

Alice, 21, works as a technical assistant in a government office.

Good versus evil

Lisandro Claudio

THE BEST fairy tales, more often than not, are about the battle between good and evil. It's a classic plot that hasn't failed writers yet; and it probably never will.

Interestingly it seems as if the muses who've inspired writers are also inspiring the Filipino as he writes his own history. We are indeed in a typical battle of good versus evil and everyone is affected by it.

Just like in fairy tales, which cater to the simple understanding of a child, everything is as simple as black or white: you're either magnanimous and patriotic enough to be anti-Estrada or you're brainwashed to fraternize with the conniving Puwersa ng Masa senatorial bets while desecrating the Edsa Shrine or attacking Malacañang.

Yes, I did say brainwashed. Because, as with most of stories about the struggle between good and evil, the servants of the principal antagonist usually think they're fighting on the right side and, at times, even the side of God. The strength of your commitment to defend Estrada is correlated to how deeply you have been deceived.

How can a reasonable person assert that his savior is the president who, according to one of my favorite anti-Estrada posters, "shagged the Philippine economy?" Given, the man might have given some poor people land. But that wasn't purely out of benevolence; he was trying to save his God-forsaken presidency. If he hadn't lived so extravagantly off government funds, he would have been able to give away even more to the poor.

His materialism, his concept of leadership (patronage) and his lifestyle are so well known that I need not dwell on them any further. Doing that would be boring since every teenager writing an English composition about the national crisis writes about the same thing. I prefer to go into the juicier and more controversial details.

To understand the "Edsa III" phenomenon, one has to go as deep as the deepest pit of hell where some of the foulest creatures to ever walk the earth dwell. Among the creatures there are Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who instigated the people at Edsa to march to Malacañang.

I wouldn't be surprised if Enrile was plotting a coup with former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, for he has been known to do that. I cannot understand why some people would take crap from a person who has admitted to faking an assassination plot and cheating in an election and voted against the opening of the second envelope during Estrada's impeachment trial. What you have here is one of the most dangerous people in Philippine politics.

And don't let me even get started with Santiago. I don't know if she's out of her wits or she just doesn't want to use them. She is one of the greatest hypocrites in Philippine politics. She bills herself as "Kampyon ng Konstitusyon," but she doesn't think twice about going beyond its limits when it suits her. At Edsa she called for extra-constitutional means of bringing down the government like civil disobedience and even a snap election.

Like I said, the biggest problem is that the masses allow themselves to be brainwashed by people like these two senators. Who will benefit when the economy crashes and when the forces of evil triumph?

The forces of good must fight back and win the battle. Because, as with fairy tales, we cannot afford not to have a happy ending.

Lisandro Claudio, 15, is an incoming junior at the Ateneo de Manila High School.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Reckless multiplication of people

OUR population has now hit 76.4 million, according to the National Statistics Office.

We may not be very good at manufacturing goods, but we are certainly active and productive in manufacturing babies, including unwanted ones.

Several years ago, we were already producing one million babies yearly. Today we are producing 1.7 million babies a year, or roughly 4,624 babies daily, or 193 babies hourly, or 3 babies every minute. Well, in the years to come, when it will be standing room only in this country, there will be no more fields for planting rice. Those who oppose birth control and family planning, if they are capable of a little arithmetic, will have to admit that their opposition implies a perpetuation not of peace and prosperity, but of ignorance and poverty.

"In cancer," wrote Bertrand Russell, "a group of cells engages in a career of imperialism, but, in bringing the rest of the body to death, it decrees also its own extinction." The human population explosion is like cancer. It is a reckless multiplication of people. We are propagating aimlessly and replenishing needlessly—not for the glory of the divine but out of sheer stupidity. In the meantime, we have yet to grasp the reality that millions of fellow Filipinos live a hand-to-mouth existence, lacking potable water and sanitary facilities, and facing yet a grimmer future: every cause is a lost cause without population control.—**POCH SUZARA, P.O. Box 3036, Makati City**

Grave social injustice

IT is preposterous, if not a complete absurdity, to pass to the 23 million contributor-members the burden of replenishing the funds of the Social Security System depleted by corrupt national officials. Where on earth can you find the logic of taking out of the members' pockets the money to replenish an institution's humongous losses caused by the mismanagement of top-ranking officials? That would be a grave social injustice to ordinary wage earners.

If the government is truly for social justice, then it must hurry to investigate the mess that has engulfed the SSS. It should prosecute the persons responsible whoever he may be, recover the wasted funds and put them back in the coffers of the SSS.

The people on the other hand should not be complacent. We know who are responsible for this mess. In the exercise of our right of suffrage, let us give them a taste of our outrage. Let us not vote for anyone among his misbegotten minions. In that way we will get some relief from our deep anguish.—**EDWIN G. ENGAY, Sorsogon City**

Proliferation of campaign trash

ONE of the disheartening things about the Philippine election season is the "uglification" of the countryside with the mugs of the various candidates on display everywhere. This is a heavy price to pay for our democracy. There must be a way to control the proliferation of this unnecessary trash.

One way perhaps is to ban the posting of the candidates' pictures and limit only the posting of their names and bio-data. This will reduce the trash during elections by at least one-half since this proposed rule will limit the number of potential exhibitionists (or masochists, as the case may be) among the candidates.—**TED MARCOS, Bureau of Customs, Isabel, Leyte**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

To make PDI a better paper

I thoroughly enjoy reading the INQUIRER, and I think it is a great newspaper. But I feel that it could use some improvements. Her are some suggestions:

1. Headlines. Nearly all cover headlines carry the same weight, regardless of newsworthiness. "Irene probed in Germany" was news, (March 14), "Aircon jail cell awaits Erap" (April 22) was already old news that should not have rated a banner headline.

2. Sports coverage. The newspaper is just about the thickest national newspaper, but it devotes only about a page and a half to sports. Yet it has pages after pages for lifestyle, film, celebrities and the like. Many people will appreciate a wider coverage of sports.

3. Agriculture. This is one of the major sectors of the economy, and it certainly employs the biggest number of Filipinos. But you wouldn't know it if you read the INQUIRER. To explain the imbalance, you might say that the newspaper is sold mainly in Metro Manila, and little agriculture is done there. I think you are wrong. Many farm owners live in the metropolitan area, and these people have to find the information they need from Business World and other publications.

I feel that your newspaper is often quite provincial and narrow in its outlook. And I don't mean Tarlac provincial, I mean Makati provincial. It's as if the A and B classes of Metro Manila represent the entire Philippines. They don't. Certainly they are the movers and shakers of society, but I think it would be better if your paper saw itself more as a national newspaper. Then your readership will improve, and you will have a better informed readership.—**JONATHAN FOE, 260 F Arias St., San Miguel, Manila**

Presidential penitents

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT'S been awhile since I did some time travelling, so the other day I hopped on my translocater and had myself fast-forwarded to the year 2020. While in the holding room waiting for my particles to be reassembled, I found a special issue of Metro, dated April 2020, with a really fascinating article, "Raising penology to the level of art."

The article starts out with a history of the radical reforms in Philippine penology that were introduced starting in 2001. What sparked this transformation was the growing number of high-ranking government officials ending up in jail for the offenses of economic plunder, sedition and rebellion.

Metro featured the 19-square-meter detention center in Camp Crame, where former President Joseph Estrada was first incarcerated, and which he promptly condemned as a "dungeon." In great contrast are his quarters in Fort Sto. Domingo, now a spacious 80 square meters with bedroom, living room and kitchen, described by the Philippine Daily Inquirer as having a "clean, no-nonsense look."

Fort Sto. Domingo seems austere compared with Freedom Island, site of "Class A" facilities for the highest-ranking and wealthiest "penitents" and epitomizing the radical changes that came about after a Penal Reform Act of 2005 (introduced in the Senate by Senators Santiago, Estrada, Estrada, Estrada and Estrada). Drawing from testimony of a battery of criminology experts, the act declared that government officials who commit crimes do so only because of a transitory lapse in judgment. Such people, the law says, are not "common criminals" and should be given every chance to do "penitence" through special centers that bring out "the true, good and beautiful present in each of these leaders."

The authors of the Penal Reform Bill wisely saw the potentials in generating income through these centers. The penitents pay for all costs, including construction and renovation of their penitentiary villas, utilities, food and other incidentals. Personnel costs have been minimal because of the large number of loyalists who volunteer to serve their former masters, in exchange for free board and lodging.

The reformation centers are still spartan: the largest villas are only 88 square meters. Like Estrada's detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, amenities are basic. Interior designers provide tasteful but simple décor, with *feng-shui* considerations to calm the spirit. To teach the penitents to take care of their own housekeeping, they are entitled to two of each of the following: microwave oven, *lechon* grill, refrigerator, toaster, rice cooker, bread maker, pasta maker, ice cream maker, micro-brewery, hot and cold water dispenser, washing machine, clothes wringer, clothes dryer and personal automated teller machine.

Television sets, video equipment and computers are provided to ensure that the penitents seek ways for self-improvement. Satellite dishes stream in global television channels, pay-for-view movies, as well as Super Internet and videomail services. Of course, the use of these services is properly monitored and censored. A team of volunteers from the Coalition for Christian Righteousness checks all movies before they are shown to penitents. Videomail and Internet browsing are done with prepaid smart cards donated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), highly improved versions of the CBCPNet cards that have incorporated Information Purifiers (technology perfected in China in 2001) to filter out all prurient and politically subversive websites.

A healthy body produces a healthy mind, so penitents have access to a full range of fitness services, including spa, jacuzzi and an abdominal flattener. Penitents can apply for more punishing sports such as mountain-climbing and kayaking. The University of the Philippines has an extension unit through which penitents can take short courses, finish college (it's amazing how many high-ranking officials had no college degrees) or do postgraduate work. (Contrary to rumors spread by a senatorial inmate, the graduate programs are not affiliated with Harvard or Oxford.) For matters of the soul, there are various religious facilities but the most popular is a cathedral operated by the Iglesia ni El Shaddai. (Yes, the Great Schism finally happened in 2004 shortly before the presidential elections, followed immediately by the Mega Religious Merger.) Many religious conversions have been reported among these executive penitents, which together with participation in punishing sports contributed to many early paroles.

Besides these conversions, the penitential centers can boast of many other successes. Not one attempted escape has been made from any of the centers; in fact, there is a long waiting list of prisoners from regular prisoners claiming that they too are guilty of plunder, sedition and rebellion, and that they should be allowed to benefit from the Penal Reform Act.

These special centers have revived the national economy, and now contribute to 8 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. The economic gains came especially after the government opened up the centers to international penitents, who now come from as far as Chile.

At the time the Metro reporters visited Freedom Island, there were three presidents, two prime ministers, six vice presidents and 23 ministers going through reformation. There are proposals to expand these centers and transfer them to the Spratly Islands, with China, Malaysia and Vietnam agreeing to withdraw their claims to the islands if these are used to build more international centers for penitents that will take in convicted officials from the three countries. This early, there's even talk that given the number of countries with high-ranking penitent officials in these centers, the next Apec summit should convene on one of these islands' reformatory centers.

* * *

Comments can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.org

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
QU1
1999
PASSENGER TICKET AND BAGGAGE CHECK
CEBU PACIFIC
Issued by CEBU PACIFIC AIR
203:4211:735:36

Great value means savings and discounts.

Cebu Pacific offers you the best low fares in the air. Every ticket you purchase opens a lot of Cebu Pacific values, perks and privileges.

Travelling as a group? Get better value using the commuter pass,

Are you a frequent flyer? Be a member of our Summit Club and you may soon find yourself flying for free. What's more, enjoy the best hotel rates through our Hotels Plus partners throughout the country.

Fly Cebu Pacific and experience first-hand what we mean by a great value flight. Because at Cebu Pacific, every flyer is a winner.

DESTINATION	FREQUENCY	ONE-WAY FARES	
		NORMAL	VALUE
CEBU	56 x weekly	P 2,608	P 2,309
DAVAO	35 x weekly	P 3,307	P 2,919
CAGAYAN de ORO	21 x weekly	P 3,295	P 2,919
TACLOBAN	21 x weekly	P 2,718	P 2,419
ILOILO	21 x weekly	P 2,498	P 2,199
BACOLOD	28 x weekly	P 2,498	P 2,199
ZAMBOANGA	7 x weekly	P 3,295	P 2,639
ROXAS	7 x weekly	P 2,279	P 1,979
DUMAGUETE	7 x weekly	P 2,608	P 2,309
KALIBO	21 x weekly	P 2,608	P 2,309

CEBU PACIFIC
The On Time, Great Value Airline.

GREAT VALUE

CEBU PACIFIC
Summit
Many Happy Returns

Call 636-4938
or the Sales Agent nearest you
www.cebupacificair.com

Prudentialife at 23:

Serving The Nation With Strength And Stability

For 23 years, Prudentialife has been at the forefront of providing sincere service to the Filipino Family. From its core products – Life Plan, Pension Plan, and Education Plan, to all its diversified services in Memorialization, Information Technology, Financial Services, Real Estate and Travel, Prudentialife is geared towards securing the Good Life for the family.

Today as we celebrate our 23rd Foundation Day, we renew our commitment to the kind of service our clients have come to know. With over P23 billion in assets, and the support of a force of 30,000 sales associates, 1,000 personnel, and a network of 250 branches in 60 key cities nationwide, we shall continue to be your trusted partner in the years ahead.

Our strength, stability and sincere service shall always be part of Prudentialife's pre-eminent symbol of caregiving.

A thanksgiving mass will be celebrated at the Maria Reyna ng Apostoles Parish
in Pinagsama Village, West Bicutan, Taguig, MM, this year's beneficiary.

Prudential Life Plan Group, Inc.

Prudential Life Plan Building, 118 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village,1229 Makati City, Philippines.
Tel Nos. (632) 840-0050 Fax (632) 815-2383 Visit us at www.prudentialife.com E-mail plpl@prudentialife.com

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary constitutes a violation of the Revised Securities Act and is criminally punishable. The public is encouraged to report immediately to the Securities and Exchange Commision any misrepresentation or false or inaccurate statement.

Macedonia teeters on the brink of war

SLUPCANE, Macedonia—Macedonia teetered on the brink of an all-out war Sunday, as ethnic Albanian guerrillas opened a second front near the northwest town of Tetovo and the government mulled over a formal declaration of a state of war.

As fighting flared along the northern border with UN-run Kosovo, the European Union urged Skopje not to take the drastic step of declaring war on the guerrillas, warning such a move could tip the fragile country into meltdown.

The guerrillas of the self-proclaimed National Liberation Army (NLA), whose 113 Brigade has been under heavy artillery fire in villages it seized near the northern city of Kumanovo on Thursday, launched a second offensive near Tetovo, scene of violent clashes in the last bout of fighting in March.

Interior ministry spokesperson Stevo Pendarovksi said the rebels had opened fire on police checkpoints in two villages in the mountains above mainly Albanian Tetovo.

President Boris Trajkovski said in a statement he was starting consultations with political parties and the Army on declaring a state of war to deal with the crisis.

A government spokesperson said he hoped parliament would agree to the measure, despite EU warnings that it would play directly into the hands of the rebels.

"We all condemn the terrorist acts by the Albanian extremists," said Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh after an informal meeting with her EU counterparts.

"But we also urge the government (in Skopje) not to fall into the trap of taking drastic actions because of these provocations, because that is exactly what the extremists would like to see," she said.

EU foreign policy high representative Javier Solana took that message Sunday straight to Macedonia's leaders, flying immediately to Skopje where he arrived hours later.

"Rather than talking about a state of war, what we have to do, among all of us, is to make efforts to declare a state of peace," said Solana, who was to meet up in Skopje with Nato Secretary General George Robertson.

Solana said he doubted the government would win the two-third majority in parliament needed to declare a state of war.

Meanwhile the Army kept up its bombardment of rebel-held villages near Kumanovo, where its says the guerrillas are keeping thousands of civilians as a human shield.

The NLA has dismissed the claims and remained defiant that the constant pummeling would not drive them out.

A rebel leader said at least five civilians had been killed by shellfire.

In neighboring Kosovo, a spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that more than 2,500 ethnic Albanians had left Macedonia for the neighboring UN-run province since Thursday.

Around 900 arrived from Brodec, one of the villages near Tetovo that the Macedonian government said had been attacked by the guerrillas.

UNHCR spokesperson Astrid Van Genderen Stort said some of the villagers reported masked Macedonian soldiers had entered Brodec and told the villagers to leave. Eight Macedonian commandos were killed in the area last week.

At least 600 of those who crossed at the Djeneral Jankovic border point were from the Kumanovo combat zone, she said.

More than 8,000 Macedonian Albanians are still in Kosovo after the last outbreak of fighting in March.

Prime Minikster Ljubco Georgievski said Saturday the government was considering declaring war after a week of violence that left 10 security officers dead, saw the southern city of Bitola rocked by ethnic rioting and ended with the Army bombardment of the rebel-occupied northern villages.

Foreign Minister Srdjan Kerim called on the West to do more to support Skopje, saying any show of tolerance toward the violence would "set a dangerous precedent for the security of Macedonia and of the whole region."

The battle broke out on Thursday when the guerrillas shot dead two soldiers in Vaksince, near Kumanovo, and seized several villages.

On the political front, Trajkovski said Saturday he wanted to "step up dialogue" between his country's various communities, and notably to improve the lot of minorities.

He said he had proposed to a meeting of community political leaders an "adequate representation for minorities within the administration."

Thursday's offensive came a day after Trajkovski met with US President George W. Bush in Washington, winning pledges of wide-ranging support, as well as urging to maintain a political dialogue. *AFP*

RONALD Biggs, the "Great Train Robber," is wheeled through the terminal at Rio de Janeiro's Galeao international airport prior to leaving Brazil for good May 6. REUTERS

Megawati ready to act to replace Wahid

JAKARTA—Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri is ready to lead a coalition of parties to break the stalemate over Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid's position, a report said yesterday.

Megawati, who leads the Indonesian Democracy Party for Struggle (PDIP) has received mounting public support as the most likely candidate to replace Wahid, who is facing rising pressure to resign or be ousted.

"In various informal meetings, the chairperson of the PDIP has indicated her readiness to lead, if a coalition between political parties takes place, and if that is the solution to overcome the stagnation in political dialogue," House Speaker Akbar Tanjung said.

Tanjung, who also chairs the Golkar Party, the second largest faction in the legislature, was quoted by the Satunet online news service as having stated Megawati's position at a party meeting in Bone, South Sulawesi on Sunday.

Tanjung has been advocating power-sharing between Wahid and Megawati as a compromise solution to the political impasse created when parliament censured Wahid for a second time yesterday.

Wahid and the legislature are heading for a showdown with both sides digging themselves deeper in their positions—the MPs wanting Wahid to resign or be ousted and the president adamant he wants to serve his full term until 2004.

The second censure opened the way to a possible impeachment of Wahid around August. Two financial scandals which Wahid has been accused of involvement in were the catalyst for parliament's moves against him.

Legislators have added Wahid's poor economic management, failure to eliminate corruption and failure to stem separatist movements as reasons for demanding his replacement.

The PDIP has proposed that the leaders of the political parties meet later this month to try to find a way out of the situation.

Hatta Rajasa, the secretary general of the People's Mandate Party, told the SCTV television that the meeting, to be held around May 11 in Bogor near here, will attempt to "unify perceptions among political parties," on what steps to take.

Tanjung said that since PDIP had taken the initiative for the meeting, its leader should also take the leadership among the parties.

Golkar, Tanjung said, viewed Megawati's leadership as necessary to lead the country out of its current multi-dimensional crisis and the party would fully support her.

"We (Golkar) will certainly give our support for the leadership of Megawati," Tanjung said. *AFP*

'Great Train Robber' back in UK from exile

LONDON—Fugitive train robber Ronnie Biggs, one of the 20th century's most colorful criminals, yesterday returned home to Britain—and possibly prison—after nearly four decades on the run.

A 14-seat Dassault jet chartered by Britain's tabloid Sun newspaper touched down at the Northolt air base west of London after a quicker-than-expected flight from Brazil due to strong tail winds.

Dozens of police officers were on hand at the airfield as the plane taxied to a halt. Waiting journalists were kept outside a perimeter fence, which was patrolled by troops with dogs.

The ailing 71-year-old Biggs, who helped carry out the 1963 "Great Train Robbery" was expected to be arrested and taken to a prison hospital, but not everyone agrees he belongs behind bars.

Ann Widdecombe, the opposition Conservative party's spokesperson on criminal justice, called for a "hard-headed" attitude, saying he should spend the rest of his life in prison, though. But friends argued the authorities should treat him with leniency in light of his poor health.

Home Secretary Jack Straw did not specifically say what would happen to Biggs, but said anyone unlawfully at large from prison was liable to immediate rearrest.

The Sun's Monday editions showed Biggs, in his wheelchair, boarding the plane in Brazil with a banner headline "Got Him." His Brazilian son, Michael, made the flight along with him.

Biggs' reasons for returning were a mystery. After 31 years in Brazil, few thought he ever would give himself up.

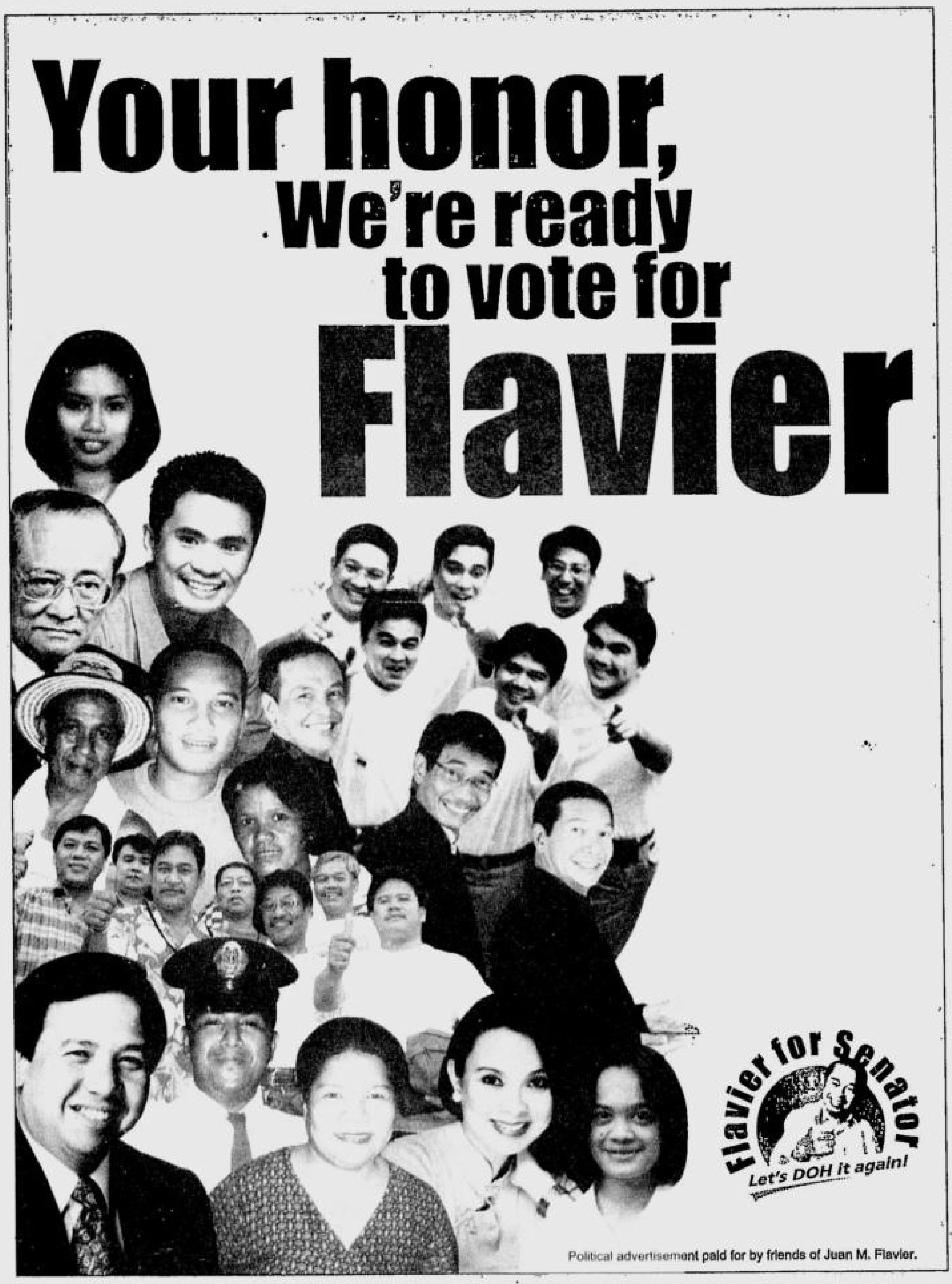
It might have been a matter of simple homesickness. Biggs said beforehand his last wish was to walk into a pub and buy himself a pint of bitter. On the flight home, he was given English-style treats he said he had been missing, including curry and marmite spread.

Britain wants him to finish serving a 30-year sentence for the 1963 robbery of the Glasgow-to-London Royal Mail Train, which yielded 2.6 million pounds—worth $7.3 million at the time, or nearly $47 million today. The robbery came to be known as "the heist of the century."

Over the years, Biggs foiled attempts to snare him out by deportation, extradition and even kidnapping. When Brazil's Supreme Court in 1997 rejected an extradition request on grounds the statute of limitations had run out, Biggs seemed a free man.

But a stroke left him debilitated and barely able to speak. Lately, he rarely left his Rio home except for twice-a-week physical therapy sessions.

After he went over the wall of Wandsworth Prison in 1965, Biggs fled to France, then to Australia and Panama. The escape and plastic surgery to change his appearance consumed most of the loot from the train robbery, and in 1970 he arrived in Rio. *AP*



Political advertisement paid for by friends of Juan M. Flavier.

Swiss tour boss sacked

ZURICH—The head of Switzerland's leading tour operator Daniel Affolter, who has been accused of paying himself exorbitant bonuses, was sacked late Sunday, the group said in a statement.

Affolter, chair of Kuoni Travel Holding, had his contract terminated by the board of directors, the statement said.

"The board of directors has shown by this measure that it is convinced of the illicit behavior of Daniel Affolter," it said.

A statement on the company's Internet site last week said most of the board of directors and the entire executive board had demanded Affolter's immediate resignation.

Five board members had accused Affolter of taking $4.6 million from a foundation, Kuoni and Hugentobler, in the form of bonuses.

Earlier Sunday, he said he planned to give the disputed sum to an orphan's welfare organization, SOS Village d'Enfants.

He also told the Swiss newspaper SonntagsZeitung that his resignation "is not on the agenda."

In his interview Affolter said his donation to the children's charity was not a sudden "act of desperation."

"I have been in touch with SOS Village d'Enfants for several months," he said.

The affair, which has been festering for weeks, broke into the open on Thursday when Affolter held a news conference to denounce an alleged stealthy boardroom coup attempt by German competitor TUI. *AFP*

Number of alien workers in Taiwan hits new high

TAIPEI—The number of Taiwanese foreign workers hit a record of nearly 330,000 people in March, a labor official said yesterday, despite attempts to tighten controls alien workers amid a 15-year record jobless rate.

"The number of foreign workers in March reached a new high of 327,529 at the end of March as a result of growing demand for domestic helpers," an official from the Council of Labor Affairs said.

Foreign caretakers in March rose 16.1 percent from August last year, with the number surging to a historic high of 100,870.

But the figure was only up by 507 people from February as opposed to previous increases of 3,000 to 4,000 people a month before the government tightened control on foreign labor imports, the official said.

The government's efforts to cut foreign labor also prevailed in the manufacturing and construction sectors, in which the number of alien workers dropped 1.1 and 6.0 percent respectively to 180,739 and 36,493 from August last year, he said.

Taiwan's total population of foreign workers in March—mostly come from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam—only increased by 592 people from the previous month, he added.

Thousands of Taiwanese workers marched through Taipei on Labor Day Tuesday demanding job protection and reduction in foreign labor imports, which they blamed as a key factor for jacking up the unemployment rate.

They also called for immediate action from the government to improve an ailing economy and ease unemployment, which hit a 15-year high of 3.89 percent in March.

Some 380,000 people were left jobless in March—160,000 of them as a result of company closures. Around 5,000 businesses were forced to close last year and it is feared the figure will exceed 6,000 this year.

Officials have hinted the jobless rate for April could top the record 4.1 percent posted in August 1985, as more layoffs were expected amid mergers and closures in the continued economic slowdown.

Authorities have revised downwards the 2001 economic growth forecast by 0.78 percentage points to 5.25 percent, while private research institutes have lowered the target to below five percent. *AFP*

Pope to visit Golan Heights amid tensions

DAMASCUS—Pope John Paul II was due in the Golan Heights Monday on a trip that will do little to quiet the political rumblings around his visit, emanating for the current tension in the region.

After a private Mass and visits to two sites in Damascus dedicated to St. Paul, whose footsteps the Pontiff is following on this his 93rd international trip, he will head for Quneitra.

There is little to see in the town since the Israelis occupied it in 1967 as the residents fled. The Israelis eventually left it in 1974, in line with a disengagement agreement after their 1973 war with the Arabs, but not before destroying it with dynamaite.

The head of the Roman Catholic church will plant an olive tree there, and pray in the Greek Orthodox church.

But with the political realities of the Palestinian intifada never far away, the visit risks more verbal exchanges between Arabs and Israelis.

Israel has already reacted angrily to comments by Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad in welcoming the Pope on Saturday. John Paul II has also heard calls from the clergy here for more support for the suffering of the Palestinians.

Senior Israeli officials Sunday blasted what one called "ignoble remarks" on Israel and the Jews by the Syrian President in welcoming the Pope to Damascus and called for the Pope to address the comments.

Assad accused Israel of wanting to "kill religions in the same way that (the Jews) betrayed Jesus Christ and tried to kill the prophet Mohamed."

Later Monday the Pope was to attend a youth meeting at the Greek Catholic patriarchate, where he will make a speech.

That will effectively be his last public function in Syria. He leaves the following day on the final leg of his pilgrimage to the overwhelmingly Catholic Mediterranean island of Malta, before returning to Rome and the Vatican.

Despite the political elements around him, the Pope has made clear calls for harmony among all religions, including at his Sunday celebration of Mass at the Abbassyin stadium in Damascus, while also appealing for unity within the Christian church.

Having already become the first Pope to visit a synagogue back in 1986, the Pope has added substantial moves toward the Orthodox and Muslim communities on this trip—now passing the half-way mark.

The Pope's pilgrimage in the steps of the apostle Paul began in Greece on Friday.

According to an opinion poll published in Athens Sunday, most Orthodox Greeks favor a union of the Catholic churches.

In the telephone poll published in a daily paper 57 percent of respondents declared themselves "in favor of the eventual union of the churches" with 26 percent opposing the idea.

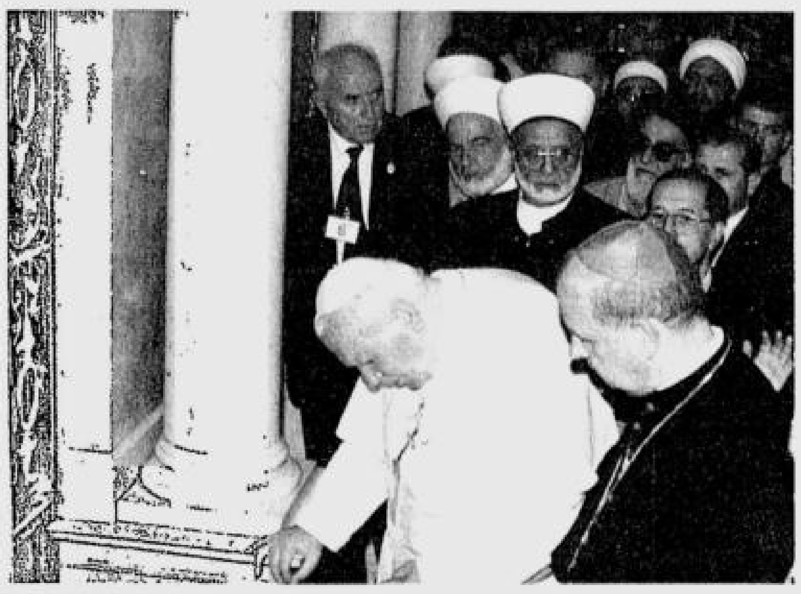
Pope John Paul II made history Sunday, becoming the first head of the Roman Catholic church to enter a Muslim place of worship, while on the same day appealing for peace among all religions.

A large crowd of Muslims and Christians clambering onto the rooftops in the old town of Damascus greeted Pope John Paul II in a gentle atmosphere for his historic visit to the Omayyad mosque in Damascus.

Harmony and reconciliation among faiths and rites have been a key part of his four-day visit to Syria on his three-nation tour in the footsteps of St. Paul.

That theme was again repeated by the Pontiff on his visit to the Omayyad mosque in Damascus, where he was greeted by Muslim clergy, including the Syrian mufti, Sheikh Ahmed Kaftaro, who told the Pope ahead of the trip around the mosque: "Holy father, you cannot imagine how happy I am today."

"For all the times that Muslims and Christians have offended one another, we need to seek forgiveness from the Almighty and to offer each other forgiveness," the Pope said in his speech to the assembled clergy from both faiths at the mosque. *AFP*



POPE John Paul II, surrounded by Muslim clerics, reflects as he leans on the tomb of John the Baptist inside the Umayyad mosque in Damascus May 6. The Pope made history by becoming the first pontiff to enter a mosque. He urged Christians and Muslims to forgive each other for past sins. REUTERS

Koizumi vows to pursue reforms to mend economy

TOKYO—Promising change on a revolutionary scale, Japan's new prime minister pledged yesterday to pursue deep reforms "without sanctuary" to overhaul the country's troubled economy.

In his first major speech since taking power last month, Junichiro Koizumi also warned the country that the structural changes could lead to higher unemployment and other painful side-effects.

But in the long-term, Koizumi predicted that the implementation of a more open, competitive system and a scaling down of massive government public works projects would lead to a more prosperous Japan.

"The top priority entrusted to me is to reinvigorate the economy and establish a society that's full of confidence and pride," Koizumi told Parliament, reiterating vows of "economic, fiscal, administrative, social and political structural reforms."

In his 30-minute address before Parliament, Koizumi also outlined plans to privatize Japan's postal savings system and look into amending the Constitution to allow the direct popular election of prime minister.

Koizumi also pledged to rebuild the country's debt-riddled financial sector, reign in government debt by limiting new bond issues to $245 billion in the 2002 fiscal year, and promote work opportunities for women.

Koizumi, who has staked his career on reform, took office last month after defeating the old guard of the long-ruling—and increasingly unpopular—Liberal Democratic Party.

The new premier has made structural reform of the troubled Japanese economy the centerpiece of his tenure. The country is in the 11th year of an economic slowdown, and a long-awaited recovery is fizzling.

On Monday, Koizumi pushed the idea of revolutionary change, comparing the coming era to the 1868 Meiji Restoration that ended Japan's feudal period and began its race to catch up with the West.

"I want to carry out reforms that could be called the "New Century Restoration,"" he said. "We want to establish a new economic and social system that's appropriate for the 21st century."

He also appeared to be preparing the country for some of the more painful side-effects of structural reforms.

"Through such structural reform, inefficient elements have to be weeded out, and it may cause a situation that would involve pain in society," he said, adding that the government would move to support the unemployed.

On foreign policy, Koizumi reiterated the importance of the relationship with the United States, and vowed to work with China, South Korea and Russia to keep the peace in Northeast Asia. He also said he would study how Japan should respond to a security emergency. *AP*

1 dead, 11 hurt in Israeli raid into West Bank

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Army launched a raid early yesterday into the autonomous Palestinian town of Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, a senior Israeli border guard officer told public radio, following a firefight in which one Palestinian was killed and some 10 others wounded.

The officer, who was not identified, said Army troops and border guards entered an area, which under agreements is under total Palestinian control to destroy a police post which the Palestinians were using as a firing position.

"We launched this operation following fierce exchanges of automatic weapon fire, which obliged us to open fire with tanks, and resulted in 11 Palestinians wounded," the officer said, adding that there were no Israeli casualties.

A spokesperson for the Rafudyeh hospital in Tulkarem said meanwhile that one Palestinian, Hussein Khader Abu Tamam, 45, had died Monday from his wounds after he was hit by shell splinters in the chest.

His death brought to 512 the number of people killed as a direct result of the Palestinian intifada, or uprising against Israeli occupation, which broke out on Sept. 28.

They comprise 423 Palestinians, 75 Israelis, 13 Israeli Arabs and one German. *AFP*

Hearing Loss?

- Virtually invisible hearing aids
- Siemens digital technology
- Clear CD quality sound

FREE Hearing test
Consultation
Batteries for life

Installment and Trade-in Available
Call today and avail of ₱ 1000 cash discount

Makati : 8671916
Alabang : 8071920
Robinsons : 6359033
www.sountex.com

SOUNtex
THE HEARING CARE PROFESSIONALS

Asean urged to pressure Burma to end forced labor

KUALA LUMPUR—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations should send a mission to Burma to check on progress the country's military junta is making toward ending forced labor, a Malaysian opposition leader said yesterday.

Ahead of a meeting of labor ministers from the 10-nation grouping in Kuala Lumpur May 10-11, Lim Kit Siang, chair of Malaysia's Democratic Action Party, urged Asean member countries to "pressure the Myanmese military junta to end forced labor and repression of trade unionists" in Burma, also known as Myanmar.

"The Asean labor ministers meeting should ask for a progress report by the Myanmese Labor Minister on the decree issued by the (Burma junta) to abolish forced labor, and should consider sending a fact-finding mission to Burma on the forced labor question," Lim said in a statement.

Burma has long been assailed by the United Nations and Western countries for suppression of democracy and its human rights record—including use of unpaid civilian labor on infrastructure projects.

Burma has said civilians contribute their labor voluntarily to promote development of the nation. Last year, the government issued a decree making forced labor illegal.

Human rights groups claim the decree was issued to avoid international criticism and that forced labor continues to be used.

Malaysia is developing as a broker between the reclusive Burma government and the international community. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad met with senior generals when he visited Burma in January, and the UN's special envoy is a Malaysian diplomat.

Lim said Malaysia should rally support among Asean for an International Labor Organization plan to apply economic sanctions against Burma because of alleged forced labor practices.

Asean, which groups together Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, has a policy of noninterference in the domestic issues of its members. *AP*

Singapore to clone wildlife

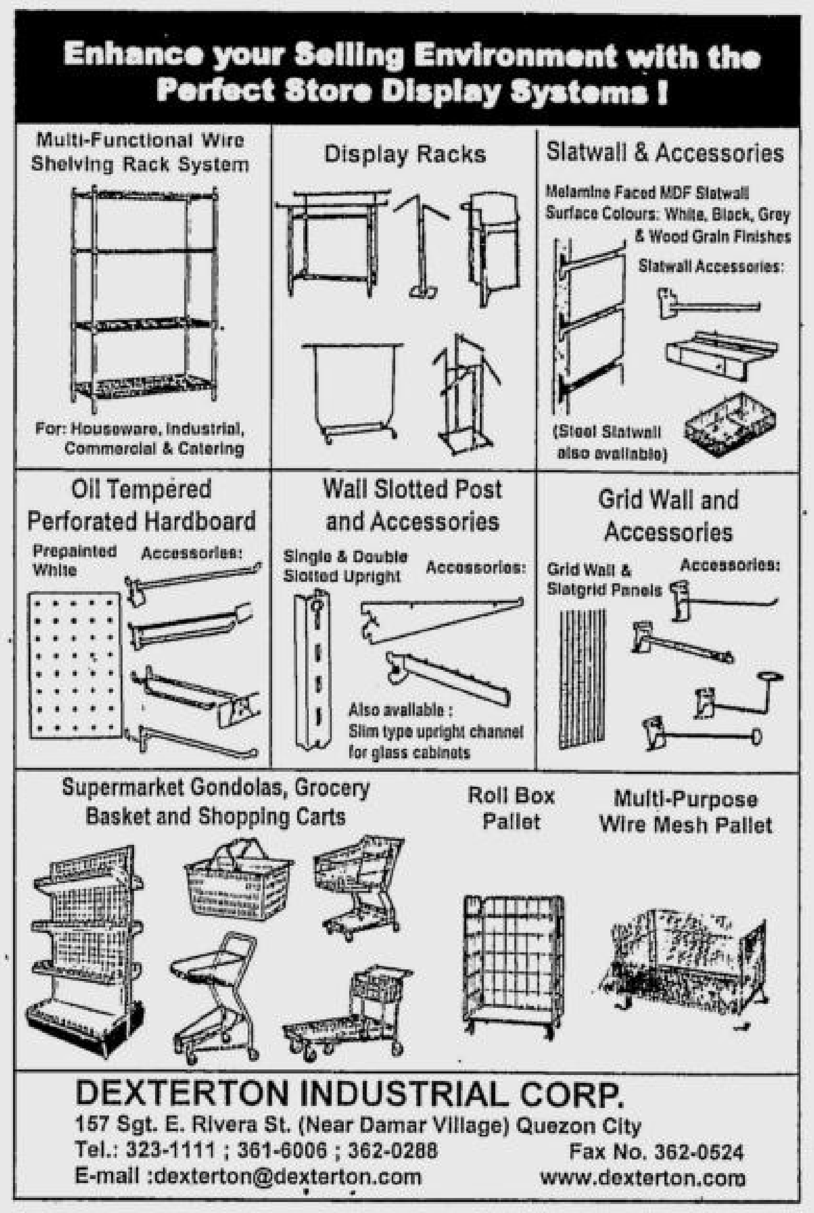
SINGAPORE—Genetic material including sperm and tissue samples collected by the Singapore Zoological Gardens will be used to clone wildlife, the Straits Times reported yesterday.

"We're ultimately moving toward cloning," chief executive Bernard Harrison of Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), told the newspaper. WRS manages the zoo.

Cloning would help prevent endangered species from becoming extinct, officials from the zoo said.

"Cloning has a place in conservation. We're looking into adapting it to use for our exotic animals, but the work being done is still preliminary," said Paolo Martelli, WRS director for veterinary, conservation and research.

The zoo has so far collected tissue and sperm samples from seven animal species, which are stored frozen at minus 170 degrees Celsius in liquid nitrogen tanks. *AFP*



Enhance your Selling Environment with the Perfect Store Display Systems !

Multi-Functional Wire Shelving Rack System
For: Houseware, Industrial, Commercial & Catering

Display Racks

Slatwall & Accessories
Melamine Faced MDF Slatwall
Surface Colours: White, Black, Grey & Wood Grain Finishes
Slatwall Accessories:
(Steel Slatwall also available)

Oil Tempered Perforated Hardboard
Prepainted White
Accessories:

Wall Slotted Post and Accessories
Single & Double Slotted Upright
Accessories:
Also available : Slim type upright channel for glass cabinets

Grid Wall and Accessories
Grid Wall & Slatgrid Panels
Accessories:

Supermarket Gondolas, Grocery Basket and Shopping Carts

Roll Box Pallet

Multi-Purpose Wire Mesh Pallet

DEXTERTON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St. (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 323-1111 ; 361-6006 ; 362-0288 Fax No. 362-0524
E-mail :dexterton@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

bringing out
the best with
BASF

With continuous training,
BASF is commited to brighter prospects for employees.

TRAINING MODULE 1

Achieving full potential through training and development.

BASF is a transnational chemical company that is dedicated to developing innovative chemical products. We are also committed to developing human potential.

BASF recognizes that the key to successful product and service development is the people behind them. We have created a conducive environment that facilitates personal growth and development, allowing employees to rise above themselves to identify and apply their strengths and realize their full potential.

BASF strives to provide opportunities for staff to upgrade themselves. To be the best they can be. This continued dedication to their training and development fosters loyalty. Learning from the various training programs gives them a sense of achievement and keeps them motivated.

BASF provides training programs as well as production-related technical symposiums to benefit our employees. These programs are conducted locally and regionally in the form of seminars for staff at various levels. Examples include basic, advanced or specialized courses in Management, Financial Accounting, Marketing, Sales, Logistics and Work Safety Procedures.

BASF is quick to recognize talent and ability and strives to keep them for the long haul. Our corporate policy is to fill management positions with employees from our own ranks and from the countries we operate in. To facilitate this, we encourage participation in job enrichment programs, allowing employees to develop skills as responsibilities are steadily increased.

In the Philippines, BASF strongly believes in its people and has invested heavily in the training of the local manpower. We encourage teamwork and cooperation, as well as partnership and collaboration. This commitment is further reflected in our efforts in localizing management and transferring more than a century of knowledge and expertise to local hands. In BASF Philippines alone, more than 75% of the executive positions are already being held by Filipinos.

Training and development remains an integral part of BASF's corporate policy. This spells a brighter future for BASF employees in the Philippines, as they gain exposure to world-class quality working standards.

Training staff to prepare them for bigger responsibilities.

For more information, kindly contact
Ms. Lorelie Chico of Corporate Communications
Department at (049) 549-0001.

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Lapid GMA's magic among 'masa'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Even as President Macapagal-Arroyo named him special emissary to urban poor communities, Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid on Sunday assured that Pampanga remained his top priority and that the Lakas-NUCD which he heads in the province will deliver a "sweeping victory" for the People Power Coalition..

The President announced Lapid's designation on Saturday or four days after thousands of urban poor folk in Metro Manila stormed Malacañang to demand the return of deposed president Joseph Estrada.

"I have asked Governor Lapid to be my special representative in my desire to reach out with the supporters of the former President. I want them to know that I am a friend, an ally and not their enemy," the President said in a Palace statement.

The new task is Lapid's first national assignment in his nine-year political career, one that he built after becoming a celebrity in the Philippine movie industry.

It was the same career path earlier taken by Estrada, Lapid's erstwhile movie colleague, friend and political patron in the Nationalist People's Coalition.

In his dialogue with leaders of urban poor communities, Ms Macapagal said Lapid would convey the message that "the enemies are the leaders of the failed power grab who exploited the emotions of the poor, put them into frenzy and left them in the end."

Lapid said he and Ms Macapagal have not set a fixed timetable for his new task, which he said was being done without any salary.

"I can do these three tasks (emissary to urban poor communities, Pampanga governor and Lakas-NUCD provincial chair) all at the same time. I will not neglect the province, which is my priority especially now that the rainy season is nearing. The Lakas-NUCD (in Pampanga) is doing well," Lapid, speaking in Kapampangan, told the INQUIRER on Sunday morning before he joined the party's motorcade in this city.

He is seeking reelection for his third and final term.

Before his assignment came, Lapid said he had visited 15 out of the province's 21 towns to campaign.

Juggling the three tasks, according to him, would not be "so much difficult" even on his daily tight schedule because his team of advisers helps him oversee the affairs in the provincial capitol.

Vice Gov. Clayton Olalia, he said, helps him oversee the party's election campaign in the province.

Opposition leaders in Pampanga called as "clever" the administration's move of using the popular Lapid to woo if not neutralize Estrada supporters but urged the President to make true her pro-poor programs.

The 45-year-old governor, dubbed by his supporters as the "*Agimat ni* Gloria *sa Masa*," will work alongside Teresita Quintos-Deles, lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Deles and Lapid will report the concerns of urban poor leaders directly to the President.

The governor began visiting urban poor villages in Quezon and Makati cities since May 2, a day after the violent riots in Mendiola broke out.

Lapid said even the loyalists of Estrada have warmly received him.

"They do not hesitate to tell me their problems and their needs. I told them that the President sent me not to make false promises but to listen to them. I assured them I would relay their concerns to her which she said she would act on," Lapid said.

He told residents of urban poor communities that he was acting as "*kinatawan ni Presidente* (the President's representative)."

Lapid said he accepted the assignment because the President is his "*kabalen* (provincemate)." ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

PPC, NPC ties start to crack in Isabela

ROXAS, Isabela—The local coalition between the ruling Lakas-NUCD and the Nationalist People's Coalition has suffered a snag, endangering a 13-0 victory for the People Power Coalition's senatorial candidates being predicted by Lakas leaders in Isabela.

The coalition's crack emerged last week when Rep. Faustino Dy Jr. of the NPC decided to endorse and publicly announce his support to Board Member Simplicio Domingo II instead of Vice Gov. Edwin Uy, Lakas provincial chair, for the second congressional district seat in the province.

Under the Lakas-NPC coalition agreement, both parties should support common candidates for governor, vice governor, congressmen and board members.

Dy, now running for Isabela governor, earlier endorsed Uy but made the turnaround last week.

Uy said he continued the coalition with the NPC in Isabela to at least give better chances for the administration's senatorial candidates for a 13-0 victory on May 14.

Uy admitted, though, that the coalition affected local candidates like him due to the Dy family's "unpredictable" decision on who it will support in the elections.

"If we did not coalesce, they (Dys) might give their all out support to the Puwersa ng Masa candidates," Uy said, noting that the Dys were once close allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

He said Dy's endorsement of Domingo could have stemmed from his decision not to agree with the Dy family's appeal that should he win as congressman, he would serve only for a term.

"Why should they (Dys) decide? It should be the people to decide who will be the candidates they would like to elect," Uy said.

Paid local radio broadcasts now announce Domingo as the official NPC candidate for congressman of the second district. NPC's print advertisements and campaign posters also carry Domingo's name. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Palawan gov, execs sued over 'midnight' deal on gas royalty

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A provincial government employee has filed graft charges against Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and other provincial officials for allegedly entering into a contract that would siphon off billions of pesos from the province's share of royalty in the Camago-Malampaya Oil Exploration off the coast of Palawan.

In his complaint filed before the Ombudsman on April 30, Nicanor R. Sta. Cruz Jr. claimed that Reyes allegedly led provincial officials in entering into a "midnight deal" with a newly-formed private corporation that was granted a multibillion-dollar contract by the province.

The complaint came 40 days after the provincial board passed a resolution assigning a big portion of the royalty of the Camago-Malampaya oil exploration to the Palawan Energy Development Corp. (PEDC), a joint venture between the provincial government of Palawan and Western Power Corp. (WPC).

Fishy

It said there was something fishy in the deal because the WPC was established only on Dec. 19, 2000 with a capitalization of only P5 million and is headed by a Lebanese, Michel E. Khoury, and an American, Joseph Rehal.

Yet, less than a month later, on Jan. 15, 2001, it entered into a joint-venture contract with the provincial government.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Reyes, but people at the capitol said he was out campaigning.

Under the joint-venture agreement, the WPC was to secure a "concessional loan" of $140 million for the PEDC to finance the construction, maintenance and operation of power-generating facilities in the province.

The WPC, however, was to have the sole prerogative of designating the contractors and suppliers for the project, thereby circumventing the country's laws on public bidding.

Under the provincial board resolution, the provincial government also assigned to PEDC, which is controlled by WPC, 40 percent of Palawan's share of the royalty of the Camago-Malampaya natural gas exploration project, which is estimated at $2.1 billion or P105 billion.

Royalty share

Reyes, Sta. Cruz claimed, is one of the PEDC incorporators. The others include senior provincial board member Antonio Alvarez and provincial lawyer Romeo Seratubias.

According to the complaint, Reyes, Alvarez and Seratubias, along with the members of the provincial board who approved the resolution, are liable under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for public officials, and the law governing public bidding.

The provincial board members who approved the resolution were Ernesto Llacuna, Ramon Zabanal, Haide Berroma, Belen Abordo, Rizalino Acosta, Leoncio Ola, Daniel Rodriguez Sr., Valentin Baaco, Claro Ordinario, and Derrick Pablico.

The resolution was authored by Alvarez, as chair pro-tempore and presiding officer, and was co-authored by Llacuna and Ola.

In the complaint, Sta. Cruz also said Reyes and the other provincial officials took advantage of their positions to enter into an agreement that was "grossly and manifestly disadvantageous to the province of Palawan and prejudicial to the public interest."

He noted that Reyes personally owned stocks in the PEDC, which represents "pecuniary and material interest that conflicts and prejudices the interest of the province of Palawan and the general public."

Reyes, who was elected vice governor in 1998, assumed the governorship last year when former governor Salvador Socrates was declared missing and presumed dead in a plane crash. ***Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Widespread rains will be experienced over the whole of Visayas, the Northern section of Mindanao and Bicol region. The rest of the country will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 33° Lo 24°	**Baguio** HI 25° Lo 15°	**Tuguegarao** HI 36° Lo 23°
Laoag HI 35° Lo 25°	**Clark Zone** HI 33° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** HI 32° Lo 24°
Legazpi HI 32° Lo 24°	**Bacolod** HI 32° Lo 24°	**Roxas** HI 33° Lo 28°
Cebu HI 28° Lo 23°	**Tacloban** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Gen. Santos** HI 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga HI 31° Lo 26°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 27° Lo 22°	**Davao** HI 29° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com .ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site), Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 480-8099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com .ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346 / 233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-ad Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71

Siege on Napocor starts over rates

BAGUIO CITY—Blaming a "broken promise" made here by Jesus Alcordo, president of National Power Corp., to the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (Philreca), six rural electric cooperatives blacked out strategic consumer areas at 7:30 p.m. Sunday as part of their protest action against the state firm.

Power was switched off simultaneously here and in Benguet, Abra, Bacolod City, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato, although interruptions lasted no more than a minute in Baguio and Benguet to 30 minutes in the Visayas and Mindanao, said Gerardo Versoza, Philreca board director.

The blackouts were unexpected, confusing Baguio consumers who were unprepared for an aggressive consumer attack on the Napocor, Versoza said. "But we have not received negative feedback yet," he added.

The blackouts were initiated by the party-list group Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) against a 30-centavo power rate increase that Napocor plans to impose.

Napocor's new rate schedule already ignores a nationwide backlash against fluctuating power rate increases it triggered in applying the controversial power purchase adjustments (PPA), Versoza said.

The rate adjustments were triggered by extra charges, which represent Napocor's debts to private industry contractors and which are now being collected from consumers.

Versoza, who is also general manager of the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco), said power cooperatives have been publicly attacked or vilified before local courts by consumers, who blame them for the PPA.

A 67-percent increase in power consumption rate has prompted consumers to rally in Bacolod City and parts of the Visayas, while a 70- to 80-percent rate increase is expected in Mindanao before yearend, Versoza said.

Luzon power rates are also increasing to 33 percent.

The blackouts on Sunday targeted Alcordo for breaking a promise to mitigate the consumer backlash, Versoza said.

"We apologize for (the increases, which started the consumer backlash in southern Philippines). The dollar exchange rate, which shot up from P27 in 1992 to P50 in January this year, had added to (the) Napocor's financial burden. But you (rural electric cooperatives) are, of course, closer to the consumers," Alcordo told officials of rural electric cooperatives here in February.

Versoza said Alcordo directed Napocor officials in February to help mitigate the impact of the PPA by explaining the fee structure, and relieving Philreca of the blame. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Battered woman acquitted of parricide

BY ROMY AMARADO
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A Regional Trial Court here acquitted of parricide charges on Friday battered wife Juliet Nodado for killing her three children in 1997 on the ground of insanity.

Judge Ibarra Jaculbe Jr. of the RTC Branch 42 here sustained in his 11-page decision the claim of the defense that Nodado was insane at the time she killed her children and tried to kill her husband.

"This court is satisfied and convinced of the defense's evidence that indeed Juliet Nodado was insane two days before and during (the) killing of her three (minor) children on Dec. 1, 1997," Jaculbe ruled.

Court records showed that Juliet hacked and stabbed dead her children—Christopher, 5, Jovito, 4, and Juvy Jr., 3—early Dec. 1, 1997 after she was badly beaten by her husband, Juvy Sr.

The killings took place after Juvy Sr. left their house following a serious fight with his wife and after beating her up.

When Juvy went home in the afternoon of the same day, Juliet also hacked him but he survived after neighbors subdued Juliet.

Dr. Angle Somera, the psychiatrist who examined Juliet, told the court in a report that Juliet "had been extremely driven to uncontrolled stress and utter frustration in her . . . marital life undoubtedly due to an unloving and uncaring husband."

The constant physical and mental abuse that she got from her husband was also cited by government social workers handling Juliet's case as the reason she mentally snapped and killed her children.

Juvy Sr. did not see his wife get acquitted. He died last year in a traffic accident in this city.

At the promulgation of her case on Friday, Juliet could only manage a faint smile when told she was acquitted.

Asked by reporters how she felt that she is now a free woman, Juliet said in an almost inaudible voice that she was "happy" and thanked her lawyer, Joel Obar, for his free legal service.

But the blank stare that accompanied her words did not indicate at all that she was happy.

Obar said that even if Juliet was acquitted, she must be suffering still from the deaths of her children by her own hands.

2 Japanese dive teachers found dead in Siquijor

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Two Japanese scuba diving instructors were found dead on Sunday about 80 meters under water in Kang-alwang, Siquijor.

Yoshimasa Shiotani, 48, and Megumi Kono, 28, were found huddled together with their regulators detached from their mouths. Their air pressure gauges showed their tanks were already empty.

The two were part of a group of seven divers from Osaka who dove off Sumilon Island on Thursday, Apo Island on Friday and Siquijor on Saturday.

Reports said Shiotani, Kono, another Japanese and a Filipino dive guide identified as Macario Capa Jr. descended to a depth of about 80 meters on their second dive.

Shiotani and Kono were reported missing Saturday afternoon when only Capa and the other Japanese surfaced after the dive.

Capa was taken to a recompression chamber in Cebu City after he showed symptoms of decompression sickness, said Andres Montenegro, manager and diving instructor of White Tip Divers and a member of the rescue team.

Decompression sickness, characterized by nausea, dizziness and joint pains, is caused by the absorption of too much nitrogen in the bloodstream because of prolonged exposure to underwater pressure.

There are two ways to cure this. One is by sending the diver back to the same depth under water and then bringing him up slowly to allow the nitrogen to escape from the body. The other way is to place the diver in a recompression chamber.

Rescue teams were immediately formed to look for Shiotani and Kono. The teams were composed of scuba divers from the Negros Oriental Search and Rescue, White Tip Divers and other groups.

Dominador Rubia, a member of the rescue team, said they were divided into three groups to save on air and to maximize bottom time.

On their second dive, the divers belonging to the first group saw the bodies at about 11:10 a.m. ***With a report from Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau***

There are 162 party-list groups.Only one party-list group
is a TESTED CONSUMER FIGHTER nationwide.

VOTE& WRITE:

COALITION 349

PARTY-LIST

Remember, a vote for COALITION 349 is a vote for true consumer protection & welfare. No other party-list group has always been as committed to fight with integrity and courage for Filipino consumers nationwide as COALITION 349, headed by **VIC DEL FIERRO, Jr.**

For details, you can call: 547-7302 or 547-7304

Donated by supporters of COALITION 349

In four days, our issues and their views revealed.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER and GMA7 will make it happen.

Batangas gubernatorial bet shot dead; NPAs own killing

(From page A1)

the scene 40 minutes after the killing.

At least 12 candidates for various local posts have been killed in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan, vicar general of the archdiocese of Lipa, described as ironic the killing of Platon, chair of the League of Municipal Mayors in Batangas and secretary general of the Lakas-NUCD chapter in the province.

"It happened just after we had a Mass for peace at the cathedral where all local candidates were invited to sign a covenant for clean, honest and peaceful elections on May 14," Madlangbayan told the INQUIRER over the telephone.

Both Platon and Mandanas, however, did not attend the Mass on May 6.

Omar de Lote of the Tanauan mayor's office said Platon did not bring along bodyguards to Tuy as was his habit.

"For him, the people were his bodyguards. He wanted to set an example that a candidate like him do not need any bodyguard because he had not done wrong against anybody," he said.

NPA statement

But the NPA Melito Glor Command in Southern Tagalog said in a statement that Platon had racked up "a long list of criminal cases against the people."

Alcantara said a "people's court" had found Platon guilty of heading a gang of car thieves, gun running, giving protection to a drug syndicate, and violating human rights.

The NPA unit's spokesperson also described Platon as "a rabid counterrevolutionary."

But the mayor's widow, Bhess Platon, said her family did not believe the NPA was responsible for the killing.

The 52-year-old widow, who is running for mayor of Tanauan City, said her family had not received any death threats from any group, including the NPA.

In a press statement, the Lakas-NUCD said Platon was an evil politician the NPA pictured him to be.

"The party fields candidates with unblemished records. They are morally upright, and we are proud to say that Mayor Cesar Platon has met all these requirements as a public official and as a member of the party," it said.

Laurel shocked

Former Vice President Salvador H. Laurel expressed shock over the killing of Platon whom he described as "a good and valiant Batangueno and a devoted and effective public servant."

"I do not believe the assassins of Mayor Platon were Batanguenos. Batanguenos fight frontally. They never shoot an armed adversary from behind," Laurel said in a press statement.

Local officials and residents refer to Platon as "the miracle man of Tanauan" because it was during his three terms as mayor that the town became the third city of Batangas. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila*

MOURNING residents view their slain mayor and candidate for governor, Cesar Platon.

ERIK ARAZAS

Loi complains of body search by jail guards

(From page 1)

the female guard pushed up her breasts," her mother recounted.

"It was so painful for a mother to see her daughter go through that kind of unnecessary experience," she added.

"We do not need curtains and an aircon which she (President Macapagal during her visit with the ex-president on May 3) offered to install. What we need is fair and just treatment. We need justice," Ejercito said.

Ejercito herself was about to be subjected to a body search when she recoiled from the groping hands of a guard and flared up. The guards decided to spare her, but not Jackie. On her nearly daily visits, Jackie goes through the same indignity, according to her mother.

Teasing comb

But Ejercito said she was not spared from her bag being checked inside out, her lipstick and make-up kit. The guards confiscated her teasing comb, which has sharp edges.

This is why the former first lady said she has discouraged her female friends from visiting..

The search is conducted to make sure that no cellphone or any illegal device is sneaked into the detention cell of the deposed president.

All electronics devices are prohibited. Even a beeper and a small calculator have to be deposited to the guards.

The gate before the detention cell is another checkpoint where all jewelry that a visitor is wearing have to be removed. Curiously, the guards hold on to the pieces of jewelry but hand them back to their owner before entering the ex-President's quarters.

No hypocrite

When asked what she thought of the President's visit, Ejercito said: "I'm not a hypocrite. I don't think I can talk to her after what happened and what our wounded and jailed supporters told me when I visited them."

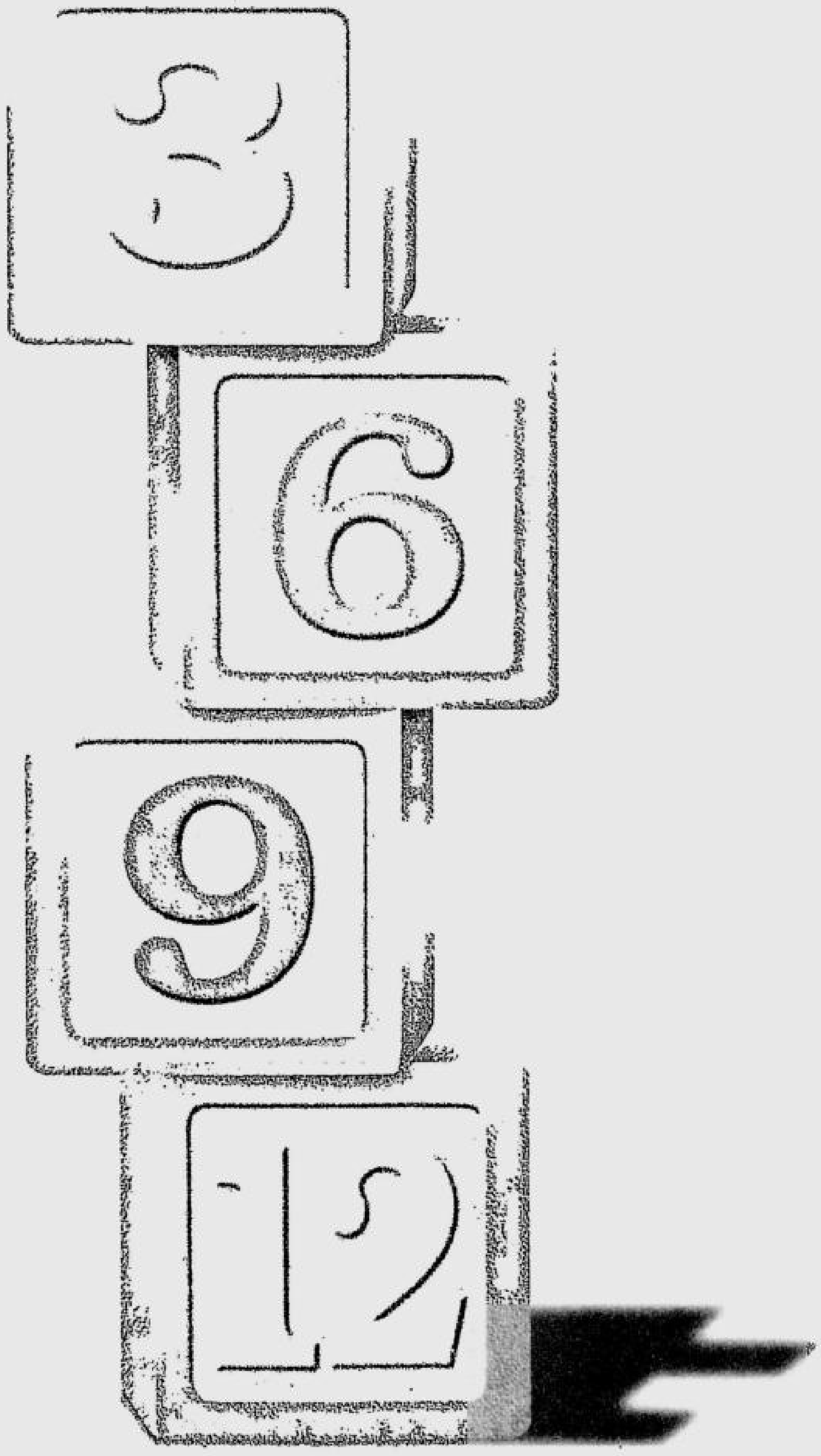
The detainees, according to Ejercito, told her that before they were presented to the President, they were made to take a bath. Last Saturday, President Macapagal visited 43 detainees at the Western Police District.

The detainees also told Ejercito that Ms Macapagal only talked to a few of them and for a very short time just long enough for pictures to be taken.

She learned about the wish of the President to visit her predecessor from Cebu Cardinal Vidal who asked the ex-President's permission. "Erap did not agree right away," his wife recalled. "But he promised Cardinal Vidal that he would think about it. When the cardinal asked a second time, Erap agreed for her to visit only in deference to Cardinal Vidal's request. Maybe they can resolve something, the cardinal was saying."

"Nothing came out of the meeting," Ejercito said.

Paying for your child's education is as easy as



monthly installments at only 1.5% per month

with Metrobank credit cards' Tuition Fee Power Pay.

Avail of Metrobank credit cards' Tuition Fee Power Pay from April 16 to July 15 and pay only 1.5% a month on a 3, 6, 9 or 12-month installment. Simply present an original copy of the school's assessment form or official receipt (if you have already paid the fees) at the Unibancard main office, its regional offices or at any Metrobank* branch nationwide and get your check within the hour! With Metrobank credit cards, paying tuition fees has never been so worry-free!

METROBANK VISA

Member Metrobank Group

The Power To Enjoy Life

For inquiries, please call our 24-hour, 7-day customer service hotline:
8-700-700 or 1-800-1-888-5775 domestic toll free or visit Unibancard Corp. at 15/F, PSBank Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Tindalo St., Makati City.

*Minimum availment is P3,000.00

Per DTI - NCR Permit no.0471, Series of 2001

Honasan 'seen' North and South

(From page A1)

But Honasan, who is being hunted for his alleged involvement in the coup plot against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, told Naga City radio station dzGE that he was "not in hiding" but was merely avoiding "a confrontation."

He said that the judicial and executive branches of the government were conspiring against the opposition, and that the administration was filing rebellion and sedition cases against opposition leaders to "wipe them out."

Honasan also said he would not come forward until the Supreme Court resolved the legal questions, adding that he did not want to "fall into a trap."

In Manila, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez told reporters at a news conference that the government would continue to arrest even without warrants those suspected of participation in the frustrated coup plot.

"Warrantless arrests can still be done despite the lifting of the state of rebellion. There is no specific time limit prescribed in rebellion since it is a continuing offense," Perez said.

Not only Senators Renato Cayetano and Rodolfo Biazon but also Honasan's former comrades in arms in the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan are urging him and another alleged coup plotter, Panfilo Lacson, to turn themselves in.

People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo also said Honasan and Lacson "should surrender and (post) bail, like (Sen. Juan Ponce) Enrile and (ex-Ambassador Ernesto) Maceda, and respect the court."

"Why doesn't (Honasan) just surface and face the charges against him, and let the courts decide if these will prosper?" said RAM spokesperson Proceso Maligalig, a former Navy captain.

But Biazon and Cayetano said the government should consider arresting Honasan and Lacson, also a PnM senatorial candidate, through regular court procedures.

In Cebu City, Lacson's campaign manager Angelito Banayo said the ex-chief of the Philippine National Police had no plan to surrender even if the President lifted the declaration of a state of rebellion Sunday night.

Banayo, disgraced ex-President Joseph Estrada's adviser on political affairs, pointed out that the Supreme Court had yet to resolve Lacson's petition to declare as illegal and unconstitutional, the order to arrest him and other opposition leaders without warrants.

But Banayo admitted that he had not talked directly with Lacson since May 2, a day after the arrest order was issued.

Denim jacket

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th ID spokesperson, said intelligence operatives were dispatched to the town of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, to check on the report of Honasan's sighting.

"We have no order to arrest him. However, if our forces monitor Senator Honasan in our area of jurisdiction, we can immediately inform the police, who will (conduct) the arrest," Ando said.

Honasan was supposedly wearing a denim jacket when the INQUIRER source chanced upon him in Barangay Rebuken in Sultan Kudarat on Saturday.

The source asked not to be identified, saying it was "for (his) own safety."

"Honasan was explaining to about a dozen people why he refuses to surrender," the source said. He quoted Honasan as saying: "I have not done anything wrong. The allegations against me are not true. I am not running away from the law."

At mid-afternoon Saturday, Honasan and his companions left for North Cotabato for another meeting with his supporters, the source said.

Police and Army officials in Northern Luzon dismissed reports that Honasan had been seen in Apayno in the company of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Apayao Rep. Elias Bulut.

According to earlier radio reports, former Ifugao Rep. Gualberto Lumauig relayed Honasan's sighting in "Sta. Elena, Apayao," to the military.

But Supt. Generoso Bonifacio, deputy Cordillera director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, cited CIDG intelligence reports showing that Honasan was in Metro Manila.

He said reports that Honasan was in Northern Luzon were aimed at confusing those pursuing the senator.

There is also no Sta. Elena town in Apayao. There is a town of Sta. Marcela near the Apayao-Cagayan border.

Bonifacio said Honasan was first reported hiding in a Baguio City safe house maintained by the police and the Guardians.

Other reports said Honasan had been seen in Apayao, Cagayan or Kalinga, but Bonifacio said all these were unconfirmed.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, commanding general of the Army's 5th Infantry Division in Gamu, Isabela, said he had ordered his men to check reports that Honasan was in Northern Luzon.

He said soldiers stationed in Apayno, Kalinga and Cagayan reported no sighting of Honasan in these provinces.

Bonifacio said the CIDG had been assigned to hunt down Honasan.

"But so far, we have not been able to find him . . . I already talked to my director (Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG national director), and our intelligence reports placed him in Metro Manila," Bonifacio said, adding:

"We think the 'sightings' in the countryside are meant to distract our attention from Manila in order to allow him to slip out."

'Not evading capture'

"*Hindi naman ako umiiwas* (I'm not avoiding them). I am not evading capture. *Bako man ako nagtatago. Habo ko lang na magkaigwa nin komprontasyon* (I am not hiding. I just don't want to have a confrontation)," Honasan told dzGE.

He denied having incited protesters to rebel during the pro-Estrada rallies at the Edsa Shrine, which culminated in the bloody siege of Malacañang on May 1.

He claimed that he even told the protesters to peacefully air their grievances.

Honasan said the government's claim that he was among those who plotted a supposed power grab that included the assassination of Estrada and Ms Macapagal and Enrile's installation as head of a junta was a fantasy.

He also said the administration should stop harassing members of the opposition by filing sedition charges against them.

Honasan did not categorically dismiss the possibility of a coup against the Macapagal administration, but said that if ever this happened, it would not come from his group.

He said members of the Young Officers Union (YOU) were providing him security.

He suggested that the government reconsider the dialogue that the opposition was proposing in order to address the causes of unrest that almost toppled the Macapagal administration.

Honasan said the administration should avoid issuing statements that tended to antagonize the opposition.

"This cannot be solved by hard posturing. A little humility is needed here," he said in Filipino.

But RAM's Maligalig said Honasan's refusal to surrender was bolstering suspicions that criminal acts like the bloody robbery at the Farmers Plaza in Cubao, Quezon City, last Sunday was part of destabilization efforts against the government.

"Don't tell me that robbers muster that much courage when the country is still under a state of rebellion," he said.

Maligalig pointed out that the former Army colonel had not gotten in touch with major RAM personalities since he went into hiding, bolstering reports of a rift between him and the rightwing group that he once led.

Maligalig said that at the height of the loyalist rallies at Edsa, Honasan tried to call in members of the Guardians. "We prevented that," Maligalig said. "In that sense, we can say that (he has a grievance against us)."

Maligalig expressed doubt that the mainstream YOU was actually hiding Honasan.

In Digos City, the RAM and allied groups have launched their own hunt for Honasan and Lacson.

The effort, according to a ranking police officer in that city, is a voluntary move of the RAM, Soldiers of the Filipino People and YOU.

He said the Guardians, composed mainly of civilians, were also helping track down Honasan.

'Good idea'

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on security and defense, said that by going to court with the evidence and securing arrest warrants, the government might convince Honasan and Lacson to face the charges.

"They would comply and face the legal procedures," Biazon said. "I think we can restore a feeling of order and restore stability."

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, PNP intelligence chief, said the government was planning to file the appropriate charges against Lacson and Honasan so the courts could issue arrest warrants against them.

Berroya said they had enough evidence to support the filing of charges but that the CIDG would have to file these.

The Supreme Court yesterday gave government prosecutors 48 hours to comment on the petitions filed by Lacson and co-PnM candidate Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago questioning the legality of the order for the warrantless arrest of opposition figures.

It also called for the government's official comment on a third petition filed by the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino asking it to "lift, annul and/or set aside" the President's declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila.

The tribunal issued the order for the government's comment just as Honasan submitted his own petition asking it to declare as unconstitutional Malacañang's Proclamation No. 38 on the state of rebellion. ***Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Allan A. Nawal, Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Vincent Cabreza and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Carlito Pablo, Armand Nocum, Cathy C. Yamsuan and Christine Avendaño***

'Puwersa' cries foul over TV ads

(From page A1)

senatorial slate in general and reelectionist Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago and ex-police chief Panfilo Lacson in particular.

Asking "*Iboboto nyo pa ba sila* (Will you still vote for them)?" one ad portrayed the opposition candidates as washing their hands of any responsibility for the violent May 1 attack on Malacañang by supporters of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

One advertisement each was devoted to campaigning against Enrile, Honasan, Santiago and Lacson. The government has accused all of them of plotting to overthrow the Macapagal administration.

One of the ads shows Enrile bragging in an interview that he is worth "P11 billion," and, in another scene, urging the pro-Estrada crowd at the Edsa Shrine to "go nearer Malacañang."

Another ad highlights footage of a series of bloody but failed coup attempts staged by cashiered Army Colonel Honasan against the Aquino administration.

At one point, the ad cuts to a scene at Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate, with Honasan saying "the law cannot be suppressed."

When it's her turn, Santiago is shown scoffing and laughing at her critics in an interview, branding them "lower life forms." Another scene shows her inciting the Edsa crowd to march on Malacañang.

Lacson, for his part, is shown being implicated in kidnapping cases, the unsolved Kuratong Baleleng rubout case and wiretapping activities.

The screen then blacks out and the word "BANG!" fills the screen, followed by footage of Lacson testifying at the Senate.

All the ads end with the question, "*Iboboto nyo pa ba sila?*"

The commercials, which were broadcast over at least three channels—2, 13 and 23—indicated that they were paid for by the 13-0 Movement, a group of private organizations and individuals campaigning for all 13 senatorial candidates of the administration People Power Coalition.

The opposition accused the PPC of being behind the negative ads.

In a statement, the LDP-PnM said the ads "released by the PPC represent a desperate, last-ditch effort to salvage what is left of (their) faltering, losing and bankrupt campaign."

It asked the Commission on Elections to stop the airing of the ads, which allegedly violate the "provisions on truth in advertising standards that is a hallmark of the Fair Elections Act."

In a press conference, Enrile said his statements were taken out of context. He called the ads "malicious and libelous."

"I don't even remember some of the statements they attributed to me. Is this kind of propaganda allowed by the Comelec and is part of the time allotted for PPC under the Fair Election Law?" he asked.

He intends to find out who paid for the ads "after the elections."

In a statement, Lacson claimed the ads were part of the "relentless black propaganda" campaign allegedly being waged by the PPC against him and other opposition candidates.

"It is very evident that the PPC, with the full backing of Malacañang, has been spending millions of pesos for their propaganda campaign against me, which started the day I announced my candidacy," said Lacson, who went into hiding after he was ordered arrested for allegedly plotting against the government.

Lacson claimed he "received highly reliable information" that the PPC had hired the advertising agency Campaigns and Grey for this particular ad campaign.

PPC media director Dodi Limcaoco denied that the coalition had funded the ads, but said party officials had been aware that the 13-0 Movement was going to come out with the ads.

"But we agree with what the ads say. I think the point is . . . the difference in the leadership style between the PPC and the opposition candidates," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Of course we thank them (the 13-0 Movement). They're the people who have been helping us," he added.

Others who saw the ads had mixed reactions. Some expressed concern that the negative campaign tactic would backfire on the PPC candidates.

"It's double-bladed. Filipinos are not used to negative advertising. Filipinos are always on the side of the underdog, and the underdog image will add more votes and awareness," said a retired military officer.

"I found it funny at first because that was a good hit," a college student said of the series. "It was biased, but I thought it's also OK because some of the accusations were true."

Another college student found the ads "catchy" but wondered if they were allowed under Comelec rules.

A Makati office worker who said she had no intention of voting for any of the four candidates anyway did not find fault with the ads. ***With reports from Leila Salaverria, Irene Andrea Perez, Shirley Hope Sebastian and Rosary Diane Baytion***

LEGAZPI SAVINGS & LOAN BANK, INC.
Rizal cor. Mabini St., Legazpi City

25th Anniversary
May 8, 2001

"Your Friendly Thrift Bank Since 1976"

.... THE HISTORY

LEGAZPI SAVINGS & LOAN BANK, INC. was founded by prominent families in the province of Albay on May 8, 1976, namely;
The Bichara Family of Ligao, Albay,
The Los Baños Family of Legazpi City,
The Po Lam of Legazpi City,
The Sabido Family,
The Giongco Family of Rosario, Cavite

LEGAZPI SAVINGS operated as a Savings Thrift Bank at the old Los Baños building along corner of Rizal and Mabini Streets in Legazpi City. Deposits and loans to the public was its primary line of service. Management was under the Los Baños family.

In 1993, the family of Don Alfonso Bichara of Ligao, Albay, took control of the bank and started its expansion in accordance with the mandate of the Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas.

Legazpi Savings today has existing branches at Daraga, Tabaco, Albay District, Polangui and Guinobatan, all in the province of Albay, and at Sorsogon, Sorsogon and Daet, Camarines Norte.

The Bank's immediate development thrust is to help Bicolanos not only in the province of Albay but throughout the Bicol region in putting up entrepreneurial activities to help them alleviate their economic life.

LEGAZPI SAVINGS BANK looks forward to serving the rest of Bicol Region, specially Cam. Sur, Catanduanes and Masbate upon approval of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Branches:
- ALBAY DISTRICT
- DARAGA
- GUINOBATAN
- POLANGUI
- SORSOGON
- DAET
- TABACO

.... THE PHILOSOPHY

A friendly financial institution founded on trust and confidence of the people of the Bicol Region, with a firm belief in Divine Providence and the value of human and material resources, providing competitive products and services, assuring stakeholders with stable and secure growth acting as partner and catalyst of economic and social development, uplifting the region's standard of living and contributing to the economic, political and social stability and progress of the region and the nation as a whole.

.... THE MISSION

To provide its clientele with a high quality of products and services which only a competent, efficient, effective and friendly manpower can give.

.... THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA	Chairman of the Board
FERNANDO V. GONZALEZ	Vice Chairman of the Board
CARLOS V. LOS BAÑOS	President
FERNANDO S. COLLE	Secretary
ALFONSO P. BICHARA	Treasurer
LIDWINA LB. ABES	Director
JOSEFA PO LAM	Director

.... EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

CARLOS V. LOS BAÑOS	President & CEO
TERESO C. GUMBAN, JR.	Executive Vice President & COO
CESAR E. MONTAÑEZ	AVP-Branch Operations
MARGARITA O. LOS BAÑOS	AVP-Human Resource Mgt.
JAIME G. CAPARAS	AVP-Account Management Dept.
JOYCE B. BESANA	AVP-Acctg. & Treasury Dept.
EDNA P. TEJADA	AVP-Int. Audit & Compliance Officer
CARMENCITA F. MIRAFLOR	Senior Manager-Daraga Branch
PUREZA N. BRIONES	Manager-Albay Branch
WILLIAM S. JARDIN	Manager-Daet Branch
ESTELA C. DESTURA	Manager-Polangui Branch
FELIZA J. ABRIGO	Manager-Tabaco Branch
THERESA V. BONGALON	Manager-Branch Operations
ABNER A. TY	Manager-Auditing Department
MARIETA N. FLORES	OIC-Guinobatan Branch
JUDY H. LOGRONIO	OIC-Sorsogon Branch

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang
MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the management and staff of the Legazpi **Savings and Loan Bank, Inc.** on their 25th Anniversary.

For the past 25 years, the Legazpi Savings and Loan Bank, Inc. has managed to excel in its given niche in the banking industry. And in light of liberalization and the globalization of trade, your role in providing access to much needed financial resources to empower our people has become more crucial.

By making credit available, you have given an opportunity to farmers, fisherfolk and entrepreneurs to succeed in their respective enterprises. At his critical juncture in our recovery efforts, the support you have given them will assist in spurring the growth of our national economy.

It is truly a pleasure to note that your organization continues to persist in doing its fair share in nation building. Again, congratulations on your Anniversary and *mabuhay kayong lahat!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MANILA
8 May 2001

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS
Manila, Philippines

Congratulations to the officers, staff and members of the Legazpi Savings and Loan Bank, Inc. as you celebrate your 25th anniversary. The BSP lauds your long years of providing credit and banking services to your members and the community in your area.

On this auspicious occasion, I urge you to strive for greater strength and stability through sound and improved management practices and the exercise of prudence in various banking decisions. Only with a strong and efficient institution can you continue to be responsive to the needs of your clients, and contribute to the overall effort of maintaining a healthy banking system.

My best wishes for many more years of progressive banking!

RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA
Governor

CHAMBER OF THRIFT BANKS
Makati City, Philippines
Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Thrift Banks, I would like to extend the CTB's warm greetings on the occasion of your bank's 25th anniversary on May 8, 2001.

Twenty five years of continuous commitment to the economic development of your particular area, especially in lending to micro-enterprises and small and medium entrepreneurs and in promoting countryside development is something really commendable. May your bank continue to be a partner of government in ensuring progress in Legazpi City and the Bicol Region.

ROGERIO B. VANI ASIGUI
Second Vice-President

LEGAZPI SAVINGS & LOAN BANK, INC.
Legazpi City, Philippines
Message

Reaching this 25th year is indeed a milestone for our bank. When our founder, former City Mayor Luis S. Los Baños, established this bank in 1976, he had this desire to make available to Bicolanos funds derived from deposits by not bringing them out of the region but by plowing them back as accessible loans to the small entrepreneurs, especially to the market vendors within the region.

We continue to carry out this concept and because of this, our bank has grown to one head office and seven branches. We have just recently made a bid for three thrift bank licenses from the PDIC, which will be used to open up new branches in Naga City, Masbate City and Virac Catanduanes. With these three new branches, our bank will then be truly known as the only Bicolano Thrift Bank serving the whole region.

We shall continue serving the needs of the Bicolanos as the Friendly Thrift Bank.

CARLOS V. LOS BAÑOS
President

PROVINCE OF ALBAY
Legazpi City
Philippines
Message

I take deep pleasure in saluting the Legazpi Savings and Loan Bank, Inc. on this jubilant occasion of its 25th anniversary.

I am taking this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding service Legazpi Savings and Loan Bank has consistently rendered in full support of our Provincial Government's vision to make Albay a progressive and prosperous Province.

May Legazpi Savings and Loan Bank persevere in its dynamic participation and committed involvement in our challenging task of nation-building even as we tirelessly strive for Albay's sustained socio-economic expansion and development.

Congratulations! Arriba Albay!

AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA
Governor

Congratulations & More Power from....

* **BICHARA SILVERSCREEN & ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** Legazpi City * **PVLB, INC.,** Legazpi City * **LEGAZPI MANAGEMENT CORP.,** Legazpi City * **STA. MONICA HEIGHT SUBDIVISION,** Legazpi City * **PATTON SECURITY and INVESTIGATION AGENCY, INC.,** Legazpi City * **LEO JANITORIAL & MESSENGERIAL SERVICES,** Legazpi City * **LEGAZPI RESTAURANT,** Lapu-Lapu St., Legazpi City * **JAUCIAN VILLAGE,** Peñafrancia, Tabon-Tabon, Daraga, Albay * **TABACO COLLEGE,** Tabaco City, Albay * Mayor **FERNANDO V. GONZALEZ,** Ligao City, Albay * **MR. & MRS. PO LAM,** Legazpi City * **LUIS Y PURA, INC.,** * **IQ COM SOLUTION COMPUTER CENTER,** Taft Iraya St., Daet, Cam. Norte * **LMM DISTRIBUTORS CORP.,** Daraga, Albay * **OUR GARDEN OF FAITH MEMORIAL PARK,** Polangui, Albay * **MAGAYON HOTEL,** Legazpi City * **MULTI BRAND DISTRIBUTOR,** Legazpi City * **PRINTERSCAPE (FUJI-YKL),** Labo, Cam. Norte * **MULTIVITE FEEDS,** Labo, Cam. Norte * **THELMA ACUÑA-** Philamlife Underwriter * **ROYCE ENTERPRISES,** Daraga, Albay * **CHRYZ ATIENZA,** Daraga, Albay ***BOHOLANO AUTO BUILDING SHOP,** San Francisco, Malilipot, Albay * **TECHNOVA INDUSTRIAL SALES,** #57 Bangkilingan, Tabaco City * **EDNA LAJARA STORE,** Market Site, Polangui, Albay * **BENZON BURGER HOUSE,** Polangui, Oas, Ligao & Guinobatan * **CNJ MARKETING,** Guinobatan, Albay * **BASAL AGRI SUPPLY,** Ligao City, Albay * **POLANGUI SHELL SERVICE STATION-** Donna Barlet - Proprietress, Polangui, Albay * **Hon. JOEY S. SALCEDA,** Congressman, 3rd District of Albay * **JESS S. SALCEDA JR.,** Polangui, Albay ***MR MIKE GO,** Sorsogon City, Sorsogon * **JUTHER CONSTRUCTION & SUPPLY,** Sorsogon City, Sorsogon * **STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC.,** Legazpi Branch, Legazpi City * **KIT LYN MARKETING,** Daraga, Albay * **NEW PREMIERE HOUSE OF PRINTERS-** Rudyard & Beth Cabigao, Legazpi City * **NEW GUINOBATAN TRADING,** Guinobatan, Albay * **JEMRICH ENTERPRISES,** Cabangan, Legazpi City * **CONSUMER CENTER & LUCKY CHOICE,** Legazpi City & Guinobatan, Albay * **ME GENERAL MERCHANDIZE,** Camalig, Albay * **MARY'S CHILD LEARNING CENTER,** Daraga, Albay * **MINA'S HANDICRAFT,** Market Site, Daraga, Albay * **Mr. & Mrs. REYNALDO ASE,** Polangui, Albay * DENNIS R SAMBITAN, Polangui, Albay * **Mr. & Mrs. VIRGILIO S. SANTOR,** Polangui, Albay * **STO. NIÑO HARDWARE-** Ruben Quililan-Owner, Ligao City, Albay * **LA CHESKA CENTRAL STORE,** Polangl, Albay * **Ms. EDNA SIGUENZA,** Ligao City, Albay * **Mr. & Mrs. RAYMUND NUÑEZ,** Ligao City, Albay * **Mr. & Mrs. MELCHOR BRIONES,** Sorsogon City, Sorsogon * **Mr. BOBOY DUANA-** President, RC of Sorsogon, Sorsogon City, Sorsogon * **PALAMIGAN FOOD, INC.-** Rene Yulo, Daraga & Legazpi City* **NEW ALBAY PILINUT CANDY-** Roleo & Rosemarie Battung Rizal St., Albay District, Legazpi City * **EVANESS EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES & GEN. MDSE.,** Legazp City* IBO-MONTAÑEZ OPTICAL CLINIC, Legazpi City * **CAMALIG GRAINS AND GENERAL MERCHANDIZE,** Camalig Albay * **MTJ CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY,** Camalig, Albay * **J. RAM BUILDERS,** Legazpi City * **T.C.GUMBAN & ASSOCIATES, CPAs,** PVLB Bldg., Legazpi City

Power Grabber, masdan ang ginawa mo.

DPWH
PULIS NPD
PULIS

Dahil gusto mong humawak ng kapangyarihan.
Dahil sa nagbabaga mong ambisyon.
Dahil sa galing mo sa pagmanipula ng tao.
Dahil magaling kang maglunsad ng armadong rebelyon.

Lumusob ang 60,000 sa Malacañang noong Mayo 1 para pabagsakin ang isang lehitimong pamahalaan.
Nagkamatayan. Nagkasakitan.
Nagkawasakan. Nagkanakawan.

Bumagsak ang Piso laban sa Dolyar.
Tumiwangwang ang stock market.

Kaya naman, babagal ang pag-unlad.
Magdadalawang-isip ang mga dayuhang mamumuhunan.
Dadalang ang mga dayuhang turista.

Rumupok ang pagkakaisa ng mga Pilipino.
Nadungisan ang pangalan ng Pilipinas sa harap ng mundo.

Pagkatapos, "nagpo-Poncio Pilato" ka.

Ngayon, Power Grabber, maligaya ka na ba?

Isang pagmumulat ng Diwa ng EDSA

'Worst may not be over'

(From page A1)

tion was available regarding its peak strength.

The AFP did not reveal the exact number of troops that were sent back to their original areas of operation.

Santiago declined to provide hard figures on the number of troops and military hardware that remained under his command.

"(The figures are sufficiently) substantial to react to any contingency," he said.

Send-off

In formation for the President's send-off message yesterday were troops from the 710th Special Operations Wing of the Air Force, Light Armor Brigade, Special Forces, 59th Infantry Battalion, 1st and 2nd composite battalions of the 7th Infantry Division, and 68th Infantry Battalion.

Speaking extemporaneously, the President commended Task Force Libra "for saving my life and that of my family, and the nation as well."

She again referred to the troops as "my heroes," and said that had the protesters who marched from the Edsa Shrine managed to enter the Palace grounds, "I would not be here anymore."

"I hope we can meet again in circumstances less tense," the President said.

She then saluted the troops, smiling her best.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao announced that as of yesterday morning, the alert status for the military had been lowered from "red" to "blue."

"We expect the alert level to be completely lifted by the end of the day," Tiglao added.

At the Malacañang grounds, some of the armored personnel carriers were withdrawn from public view and some of the barriers placed at entrances and exit points were dismantled.

COMMENDATION from President Macapagal during send-off rites at Camp Aguinaldo for the anti-coup task force: Thank you for saving my life and that of my family and the nation. JOAN BONDOC

But security remained tight.

Command conference

At press time, PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza and other ranking police officials were holding a command conference at Camp Crame to discuss "the thin line and the dilemma" regarding the lifting of the state of rebellion vis-à-vis the arrest of Lacson, Honasan, Brig. Gen. Jake Malajacan and Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao II—all suspected of planning the attack on Malacañang.

Mendoza ordered the nationwide hunt for the suspects after the President gave him the authority to enforce warrantless arrests on the ringleaders of the aborted coup attempt under the principle of "continuing rebellion."

The PNP chief said he had ordered the formation of a panel of legal minds to advise the PNP on what to do in the wake of the scrapping of the "continuing rebellion" principle.

"The warrantless arrest was justified because of the 'continuing rebellion' clause. However, we are still discussing how to make the arrests in the absence of that clause," he said.

But Tiglao said the hunt for the alleged leaders of the coup plot would be continued.

"We're asking them to show themselves so that we can thresh out whether there is a legal question or not," he said.

Tiglao said the Department of Justice was working on the matter.

"As soon as (the alleged coup plotters) are tracked down, the information would be filed with the proper court and warrants of arrest would be issued by the proper court," he added.

If caught in the act

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, invoked Section 5 of Rule 113 under the Rule of Criminal Procedure in justifying the legality of the warrantless arrest of Lacson, Honasan et al.

Gualberto said Lacson, Honasan et al. could be arrested without warrants if they were caught "in the act of committing or attempting to commit a crime," or "if the arresting officer has probable cause or personal knowledge of the crime they are about to commit, or are committing."

The generals were also discussing another "way out," but admitted it was a "more tedious" one.

Gualberto said the charge of rebellion could be filed against Lacson, Honasan et al. Once the charge has been filed, they could be summoned to appear for preliminary investigation.

"If Lacson, Honasan, Malajacan, Aquino and Mancao fail to show up for preliminary investigation, the court can issue warrants for their arrest," Gualberto said. "It will be a long process, but that's part of the procedure—to provide the accused due process."

Gualberto said that the case against Lacson, Honasan and the others was being readied, and that the evidence was also being prepared for filing in court.

"The evidence includes footage of their involvement in the five-day emotionally charged protest at the Edsa Shrine and the commission of the crime at Mendiola," Gualberto said, adding:

"The crime was to overthrow the government."

CITIBANK

To our valued clients,

You may have heard in the news that a fire broke out in the Virra Mall Shopping Center last May 5, Saturday. The fire, which began in an adjacent building, later spread and affected our Greenhills branch.

We wish to assure you that the damage to our office was minimal, and that your transaction and pertinent banking records are intact and secure.

Until normal operations are restored, Citibank Greenhills clients are advised to transact their business at our other branches:

Eastwood City, Libis - Ground Floor Citibank Square, Eastwood City
Makati - Ground Floor Citibank Center, Paseo de Roxas
Binondo - Ground Floor TLT Bldg., San Fernando
corner Plaza del Condo Streets
Alabang - Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Madrigal Business Park,
Alabang - Zapote Road

Should you wish to personally transact business with your Personal Banker or CitiGold Executive, you may do so at

Citibank Square, 1 Eastwood Avenue
Eastwood City Cyberpark
Libis, Quezon City

To reach your Personal Banker, please call 995-9543 to 44; 995-9546 to 48.

CitiGold clients may contact 995-9520 to 23; 995-9527 to 29 to speak to their CitiGold Executive.

You may also call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 for more information.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you, and thank you for your continued support.

Citibank Greenhills Management and Staff

Gloria applauded abroad, says FVR

(From page A1)

abroad," Ramos said at a press briefing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his arrival.

The former president had met in Washington with Powell and Thomas Hubbard, US assistant secretary for Asia-Pacific and former ambassador to the Philippines, who he said both "expressed satisfaction over (Ms Macapagal's) handling of the disturbances in Manila."

During his "goodwill" tour, Ramos also called on Hubbard's replacement as ambassador, Jim Kelly.

Ramos defended the President from charges that she was pushing the country toward martial law, saying "she exercised her constitutional powers in the face of violence and public disorder, but only for a short time."

But a day after Ms Macapagal lifted the state of rebellion in Metro Manila, Church groups in Davao City warned her against "toying" again with her powers, even as they applauded her for declaring the state in the first place.

Fr. Leonardo Dublan, a convenor of the Solidarity for Political Transformation Davao, said the President did the right thing by declaring a state of rebellion while the gains won in Edsa II were under threat, but he asked why it took her almost a week to lift it.

Dublan said that the situation returned to normal immediately after government forces repulsed a violent march by thousands of Estrada supporters on the Palace on May 1, rendering it unnecessary to prolong the state of rebellion.

'Not paranoia'

"We believe that it is not paranoia when we expressed fears over the state of rebellion. We must remember what we went through during martial law, so we are very vigilant about these things," Dublan said.

But he added that his group was happy that Ms Macapagal proved that she was a "listening" President by lifting the state of rebellion in response to public clamor.

Robinson Montalba, chair of the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), said "we fear that had she prolonged the declaration, it would have given extremist forces in the government a leeway to use it in quelling the legitimate grievances of the people."

He said the public greeted the lifting with a "sigh of relief." But he also urged the Macapagal administration to arrest and to prosecute the leaders of the Labor Day attack despite the lifting of the declaration.

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has charged that the state of rebellion and the hunt for opposition figures were just a plot to "cripple the opposition" in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

ROGER MARGALLO

BACK from yet another trip, this time to the US and Germany, former President Ramos holds a press conference at the Naia on Monday.

Day late

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines asked the Supreme Court to nullify the President's declaration, but, curiously, filed its petition more than 16 hours after Ms Macapagal lifted the state of rebellion.

While the lawyers' group took note of the lifting, it warned that the President nonetheless "made it clear in her pronouncements on nationwide TV that a gathering of at least five Estrada loyalists will be banned."

IBP president Arthur Lim said "the declaration of a 'state of rebellion' in Metro Manila can always be re-imposed as she may deem fit."

The IBP wants the high tribunal to issue a definitive ruling to "help clear the air of doubt, because the 'state of rebellion' has also sown a 'state of confusion' in the life of every resident in the Metro Manila area."

The group argued that the declaration of a state of rebellion is not among the powers granted to the President under the Constitution, and that the declaration creates martial law-like conditions without martial law actually being declared.

Erap, Velarde probed for fraud in land sale

(From page A1)

Desierto yesterday announced that he had subpoenaed ousted President Joseph Estrada and Velarde, Estrada's former spiritual adviser, to answer the charges of plunder and graft within 10 days.

This came after Desierto ordered last week the Ombudsman Special Preliminary Investigation Panel to conduct a formal inquiry into the case.

Desierto ordered the panel to conduct the probe after the Ombudsman Fact-Finding and Investigation Bureau found a prima facie evidence to warrant a preliminary investigation of the case.

"He (Velarde) should explain. And he can do that now that the preliminary investigation is ongoing," Desierto told reporters.

Desierto said his office had also subpoenaed the other respondents in the complaint, including former public works secretary and Toll Regulatory Board chair Gregorio Vigilar, TRB executive director Mariano Benedicto II, Public Estates Authority chair Frisco San Juan, former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora and his brother Manuel, and Cesar Virata.

All the respondents were charged with plunder, graft, violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

The investigation stemmed from a complaint filed by lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr. on April 16.

In a 67-page complaint, Francisco said Velarde, Estrada and their co-respondents allegedly conspired to defraud the government in the acquisition of lands for the right-of-way of the C-5 Link of the MCTE Project.

They allegedly conspired in giving undue advantage to Velarde's Amvel Land Development Corp., formerly ADB Realty Corp.

The P7.73-billion MCTE Project involved the construction of the 7.5-kilometer C-5 Link Expressway, which will connect the R-1 Expressway to the C-5 Expressway via San Dionisio, Parañaque.

Francisco claimed that on March 30, 1999 Amvel entered into a deed of sale with the government for nine parcels of land in Barangays Palasan and Calangcalangan, San Dionisio.

With a total land area of 79,638 square meters, the lands were sold at P15,355 per square meter. The total cost of the agreement for a right-of-way reached P1.2 billion.

"On the same day, Estrada issued another directive to the TRB approving the aforesaid deeds of sale between Amvel and the Republic of the Philippines," Francisco said.

He said Estrada further directed the submission of a certification that would show that the contracts were aboveboard.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, 1999, Estrada was a guest of Velarde in the El Shaddai Holy Mass and Healing Service at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park.

The following day, Benedicto issued a compliance/certification addressed to Estrada stating that the deeds of sale between Amvel and the government were aboveboard.

On the same day, the PEA released P611 million to Amvel, representing 50 percent of the total purchase price.

Francisco said that aside from the questionable haste in approving the deeds of sale, the nine parcels of land were "outrageously overpriced."

He said the land was sold to the government "at a price which is more than 2,300 percent of the total declared market value and 11,700 percent of the land's total assessed value."

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Amvel lawyer Joselito Guianan Chan pointed out that the property was classified as commercial.

"It is totally erroneous and misleading on the part of Atty. Francisco to insist that the subject property only commands a zonal value of P4,500," Chan said.

The Amvel lawyer belied Francisco's claim that the property was "expropriated."

"What Amvel meant when it used the phrase 'forcibly acquired' is that it never offered its property to the government for sale. It was the government that was keen in acquiring its property," Chan said.

Chan also belied the allegation of Francisco that Amvel had prior knowledge that the C-5 Link would pass through the Amvel property.

"Amvel has long been a real estate developer in Parañaque, having developed as early as the 1970s such big subdivisions as Multinational Village and Moonwalk Subdivision, to name but a few," he said.

"The subject property acquired by the government for the C-5 Link Project, measuring 79,568 square meters (equivalent to 7.9 hectares), was taken from the 232,078 square meters (equivalent to 23.2 hectares) property which, as earlier pointed out, was entirely intended as the site for the proposed Amvel Business Park," he said. ***With reports from Anissa Apolinario, Katrina Zuno and BR Guiruela***

Ana faces Montaña

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
9:00 a.m.—Gringo-Konica vs Whiz
10:45 a.m.—Regent vs National U
12:30 p.m.—Assumption vs UP
3:30 p.m.—Ana Freezer vs Montaña
5:30 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Hapee

SURPRISING Ana Freezer eyes to formalize its entry to Group A as it clashes with slumping Montaña Pawnshop today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Flashing a 5-1 win-loss record, the Freezer Kings are already in the quarterfinals but they need to win over the Jewels in order to avoid any complications and join leader Shark Energy Drink (8-0) in the elite Group A.

The top four teams will comprise Group A, with the remaining five being relegated to Group B. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Puyat sets June 7 BAP polls

BY JUNE NAVARRO

GONZALO "Lito" Puyat II, chair and acting president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, yesterday set June 7 as the sports association's elections.

The move was in keeping with the Philippine Olympic Committee's directive ordering the BAP to hold the polls not later than June.

The elections will be held at 12 noon at the penthouse of the Manila Bank building on 6772 Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

The POC also instructed Puyat's BAP that the electorate should be composed of members who elected Freddie Jalasco BAP president by acclamation in February 2000, in Pagsanjan, Laguna. Jalasco is on leave.

The notice of election was sent to the members of the BAP, including 13 regional directors, 11 executive board members and five commission chairmen.

"In compliance with the BAP by-laws and constitution, we are notifying the members of the electorate 30 days prior to the elections," said Emmanuel Tagle, the BAP's National Capital Region director.

Tams down Cards in OT

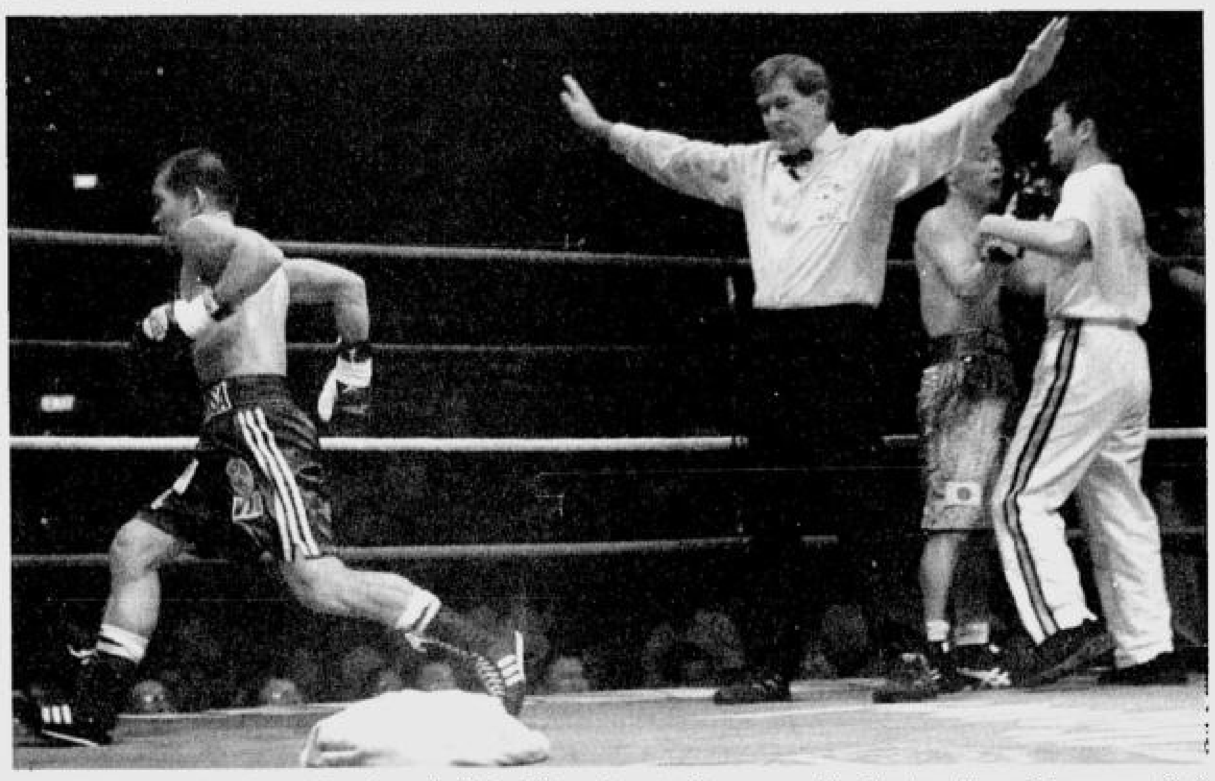
GAMES TOMORROW (PCU Gym)
8 a.m.—UST vs Adamson (Women)
9:30 a.m.—PCU-Dasma vs UST A (Srs.)
11 a.m.—UPHR vs Aquinas (Jrs.)
12:30 p.m.—San Beda B vs St. Jude (Srs.)
2 p.m.—UE vs TIP (Srs.)
3:30 p.m.—San Beda A vs PCU Taft
12 p.m.—UST vs SSC (Jrs.)
1:30 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (Jrs.)
3 p.m.—San Beda B vs Ateneo B (Jrs.)
4:30 p.m.—San Beda A vs UNO (Jrs.)

FAR Eastern University's Tamaraws lost a 17-point lead but turned back the Mapua Cardinals in overtime, 88-84, to post their second straight win Sunday in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

PBL veterans Gerard Jones and Leonides Avenido produced the key baskets in the extension period after the Cardinals had extended the game at 80 behind a full-court press and the deadly incursions of Irwin St. Maria and Steve Marucot.

San Sebastian College whipped St. Jude, 73-50, in another seniors match in the tourney sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines led by Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II and jointly sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and SMART-Piltel.

In the junior division, Tiong Lian champion Xavier School banked on the 20-point performance of diminutive Tyrone Tang to beat UE, 65-66, for solo leadership in Group B.



FILIPINO champion Gerry Penalosa (left) joyfully rushes to his corner after the handlers of Japanese Keiji Yamaguchi threw in the towel 93 seconds into the first round of their WBC international superflyweight fight at the Araneta Coliseum Saturday night. Referee Bruce Mctavish is seen spreadeagling his arms to signal the bout's ending as the wobbly challenger (right, in shorts) is being attended to by a second. JESS YUSON

Cruz bikefest

THE Cruz-Tulagan Cycling Challenge will be held today in San Carlos City, Pangasinan, with the country's top riders in attendance. Representatives Teddy Cruz and Gener Tulagan have put up a total purse of P43,500, including P10,000 for the champion. Race director Jess Garcia said members of the Philippine team and former Marlboro Tour stalwarts have entered the 168-km race.

SPORTSWATCH

Bucks, Lakers, Raptors prevail

MILWAUKEE — Ray Allen scored nine of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Charlotte Hornets 104-92 Sunday after nearly blowing a 22-point third-quarter lead in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series. In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal was at his dominating best with 44 points, 21 rebounds and seven blocked shots as the defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers held off the Sacramento Kings 108-105 to begin their second-round playoff series. In Philadelphia, Vince Carter scored 35 points, including Toronto's final four, as the Raptors stole homecourt advantage from Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference semifinal series opener to win 96-93. *AP*

Dive Fiesta goes to Subic

OVER 60 diving enthusiasts have confirmed their participation in the 5th Subic Dive Fiesta on May 12 at the Subic Bay Aqua Sports Center. Among them are Lydia Nabong and Cristy de Dios in the women's Underwater Medley; Frederick Samson and Fritz Ortiz in the Pro Underwater Medley; Dra. Luz Escarilla and Ms. Chong Sheat Seang in the women's Blindfold assembly; and Carl Allen Jr. and Jerome Salvador in the Pro Blindfold Assembly.

Ucap Phoenix derby today

DERBY fans troop to the Mandaluyong Coliseum to witness the only big-time derby scheduled in Metro Manila today, the "11th Ucap Phoenix TR/EGT Stingers 6-Cock Derby." Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc. Hosts Mario Villamor, Tito Reyes, Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez said there are more more than 45 entries, including the guest participants from Tarlac, Pangasinan, Baguio City, Batangas and Laguna plus several cockers from the National Cockers Association.

Kasibulan 6-12 football now in Ilocos

KASIBULAN Chair Juan Miguel Romualdez and German football expert Bernd Fischer resently presented with success Kasibulan 6-12 to Ilocos Norte Governor Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. in Laoag City. "The meeting was very successful," Fischer said. "Governor Marcos was very enthusiastic in pledging his support to the efforts of the Philippine Football Federation in promoting football in the country through Kasibulan 6-12. Thus, we are looking forward to the implementation of Kasibulan 6-12 in the province of Ilocos Norte." Kasibulan 6-12 is the grassroots development program of the Philippine Football Federation in cooperation with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, with Adidas and Milo as sponsors.

Don't listen, Mr. Salud

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

JAPAN'S national anthem provided a comic relief to that fight card dubbed "Winning Time" last weekend at the Cubao Big Dome. Thank God, Emperor Hirohito wasn't around when Joe Koizumi was "singing" it. Go figure what might have happened to Doming Cepeda's favorite fight man from the Land of the Rising Sun if Hirohito were seated at ringside. I've seen enough heads chopped off by samurais at the slightest sign of irritation. At least in the movies only.

A most ghastly sight.

"I've seen everything in boxing until this one," said Hermie Rivera. "You believe that was Japan's national anthem Joe Koizumi sang out there?"

Well, yes, I said. I've covered enough sports events around the world; I know Japan's anthem the minute I hear it played in a public address system. An oft-repeated piece in many a victory ceremony, especially during an Asian Games affair when a Jap wins his event and receives his gold medal. Although the one "sang" last Saturday sounded more like rap music done by a drug-crazed Yakuza than anything. Joe Koizumi's rendition of it had tell-tale signs that it was, indeed, Japan's national anthem.

If Jun Polistico could dish out our Pambansang Awit a la Johnny Mathis, why not Joe Koizumi doing Japan's anthem a la Shaq Attack?

From hereon, Joe Koizumi will cease to be known as JK (Joe Koizumi) to Filipino fight fans. He has been rechristened KJ (Kill Joy).

You must have noticed: Japan's anthem was a little short. No, KJ didn't skip the anthem's refrain. It's really that short: Just only about a minute or two. In fact, it's one of the world's shortest anthems—if not the shortest (Can you confirm this, Mr. Bong Barrameda?).

But there was one thing sure when KJ "sang" it Saturday night: It told of portents to come.

Like it was also going to be a short night for Keiji Yamaguchi, KJ's ward.

Or, shall I say the shortest night ever for Gerry Peñalosa?

Truly, it was for both boxers.

In 93 seconds of the first round, the fight was over. Peñalosa was the winner by a technical knockout.

So quick was the ending that the towel tossed into the ring appeared more visible than the Peñalosa left that knocked down Yamaguchi. That towel hurled by Yamaguchi's handlers was as an act of surrender.

"Based on Gerry's performance tonight, I'm no longer worried who he'll face in his title match," said Rudy Salud, the distinguished lawyer who started recharting Peñalosa's career in 1998.

The victory, done with a blinding hand speed, was Peñalosa's second straight via a knockout after winning the WBC International title—also by a knockout—last year. That title is given to boxers ranked 11th downward by the World Boxing Council.

The title match being referred to by Salud is the one between Peñalosa and the winner of the May 20 bout between the *real* WBC superflyweight champion Masamori Tokuyama of Japan and In Joo Cho, the former champion from South Korea. So, if things won't go awry, Peñalosa should be gunning to reclaim his *real* crown come August, or early September.

That crown was lost to In Joo Cho in 1998. In a rematch last year, Peñalosa was again beaten on points by In Joo Cho. In Joo Cho lost the title to Tokuyama a while back and will attempt to recapture his title on May 20, a fight that Salud will watch from ringside in Seoul. Hopefully, I could join him.

Salud is not to be blamed for being too ecstatic over Peñalosa's recent victory. Since that failed bid to regain the crown in January last year, Salud brought Gerry to Dr. Sanirose Orbeta, a noted dietician. Salud was shocked with what the doctor had told him: "Your boy has been eating the wrong foods that's why he lost his crown."

She said it was a myth that eating too much carbohydrates would make people overweight, that boxers should avoid eating carbohydrates to make them hit their weight easily.

The doc then radically restructured Gerry's diet. Her battlecry: Eat more, weigh less. More carbohydrates, the better.

Salud took heed. And he has never been happier in his life.

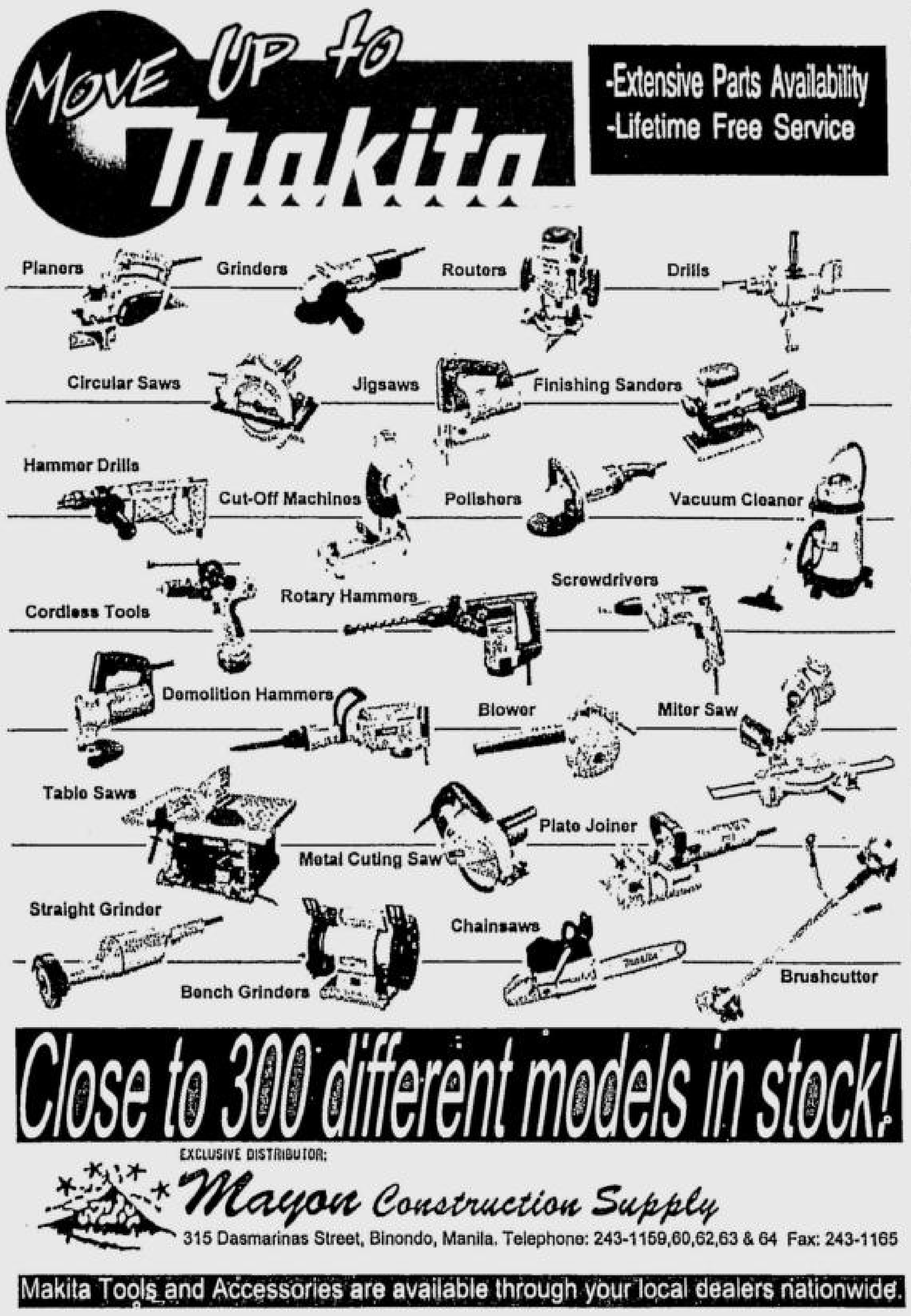
"Magic" was how Salud described Orbeta's formula. Since Gerry took on the new diet, he has punched stronger, become more focused, tripled his stamina. So strong, so focused and so resilient a fighter he has become that he knocked out all his previous foes since the new diet began in February last year; it took only 15 rounds for Gerry to destroy his last three opponents. The first two Thais he faced lasted 8 and 6 rounds, respectively. The last one last Saturday against the Japanese lasted not one round.

The Japanese was a patsy you say?

Maybe. But then, that's the trouble at times with some of us. When we see our own fighter crush a foreigner, we are quick to pass judgment as to say the beaten foe was nothing but a *magtataho* called to wear boxing gloves.

Don't listen, Mr. Salud. For right you are 101 percent: Penalosa is more than ready to recapture the 115-pound crown, the *real* crown that is also rightfully his.

KJ or no KJ.



MOVE UP TO Makita
-Extensive Parts Availability
-Lifetime Free Service
Close to 300 different models in stock!
EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR:
Mayon Construction Supply
315 Dasmarinas Street, Binondo, Manila. Telephone: 243-1159,60,62,63 & 64 Fax: 243-1165
Makita Tools and Accessories are available through your local dealers nationwide.

Komatsu PC 200-5
Komatsu D85A Dozer
JV 40 CW Articulated Vibro Roller
Unused Kia Granto Dump Truck
Fuso Fighter Transit Mixer
Isuzu Elf Drop Side
Mitsubishi Delica 4WD Pass Van
Fuso Ladder Type Fire Truck
Airman Welder Gen. Set
NORTH Expressway
Meycauayan Exit
EVER MEMORIAL GARDENS
AIM SITE
Lawang Bato Temporary Exit
To Baguio
EAST SERVICE ROAD
VALENZUELA EXIT
To Mc Arthur Hi-way
To Manila
ROYAL MALL
VALENZUELA EXIT

HEAVY EQUIPMENTS, VEHICLES, ACCESSORIES, & C.B.U. TRUCKS
AIM AUCTION IN MALINTA
presents
A 3 DAY UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION
(ALL PARADE AUCTION STYLE)
MAY 28, 29 & 30, 2001; 8:30 a.m.
ALL LOTS MUST GO!!!
• CRANES • DOZERS • EXCAVATORS • LOADERS • GRADERS • VIB. COMPACTORS • CARGO,DUMP,FIRE,TANKER GARBAGE & MANLIFT TRUCKS • REFRIGERATED, PASSENGER & ALUMINUM VANS • TRACTOR HEADS • WING VANS • BUSES • JEEPS, PASSENGER VANS & TRUCKS • GEN SETS • COMPRESSORS • WELDERS • PORTABLE LIGHT • FARM TRACTORS • EQUIPMENT ATTACHMENTS • & MORE!
GUARANTEED NO MINIMUM PRICE! NO BUY BACK!
INSPECTION AND PRE-REGISTRATION DATES:
May 22-26, 2001
All Items Newly Imported!
All Items Taxes & Duties Paid!
All Units Ready to Roll Out!
No Custom Headache!
OPTIONS:
*Take Lawang Bato Exit - to East Service rd. - to AIM Site
*Take Valenzuela Exit - to East Service rd. - to AIM Site
NEWER, BETTER & MORE CONVENIENT SITE!
(Former Tateh Compound) Km 19 East Service Road, North Luzon Expressway, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City
Tel. no.: 984-0215/16 • 984-0278/79

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Pop Cola to host PSA golf

THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association will stage its monthly tournament tomorrow at the plush Sta. Elena as Pop Cola plays host to the PBA-LSA golf circuit. Reynauld Barrios, the officer-in-charge of the PBA, is expected to grace the awards rites. Panthers' head coach Chot Reyes, guard Jojo Lastimosa and alternate PBA board member Phillip Prieto will see action in the 18-hole tournament exclusively for golfing members of the PSA.

SPORTS ON TV
COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Conference Semifinals, Dallas vs San Antonio, Game #2 at 8 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

SEABA Cup 2001 - 3rd Place Game at 1:30 p.m., Finals at 3 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Compaq Classic of New Orleans, Second Round at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA Chick Fil-A Charity Championship, Final Round at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on ESPN

BULAUITAN

RP bets win 3 more golds in Bangkok

LERMA Bulauitan, Eduardo Buenavista and John Lozada, the country's athletics aces in the September Southeast Asian Games, capped the Philippines' noteworthy finish yesterday with gold-winning efforts at the conclusion of the Thailand Open in Bangkok.

Bulauitan, considered the heir apparent to multi-titled trackster Elma Muros-Posadas, won the long jump gold with her 6.14 meters that gave the country seven gold medals for the Philippines' second-place finish.

The 23-year-old Buenavista complemented Bulauitan's feat, snaring his second gold medal in the 5,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 14:42.49.

He struck the country's first gold in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Lozada ruled the 1,500-meter run after clocking 1:50.86 in a fitting follow-up to his 800-m run conquest on opening day.

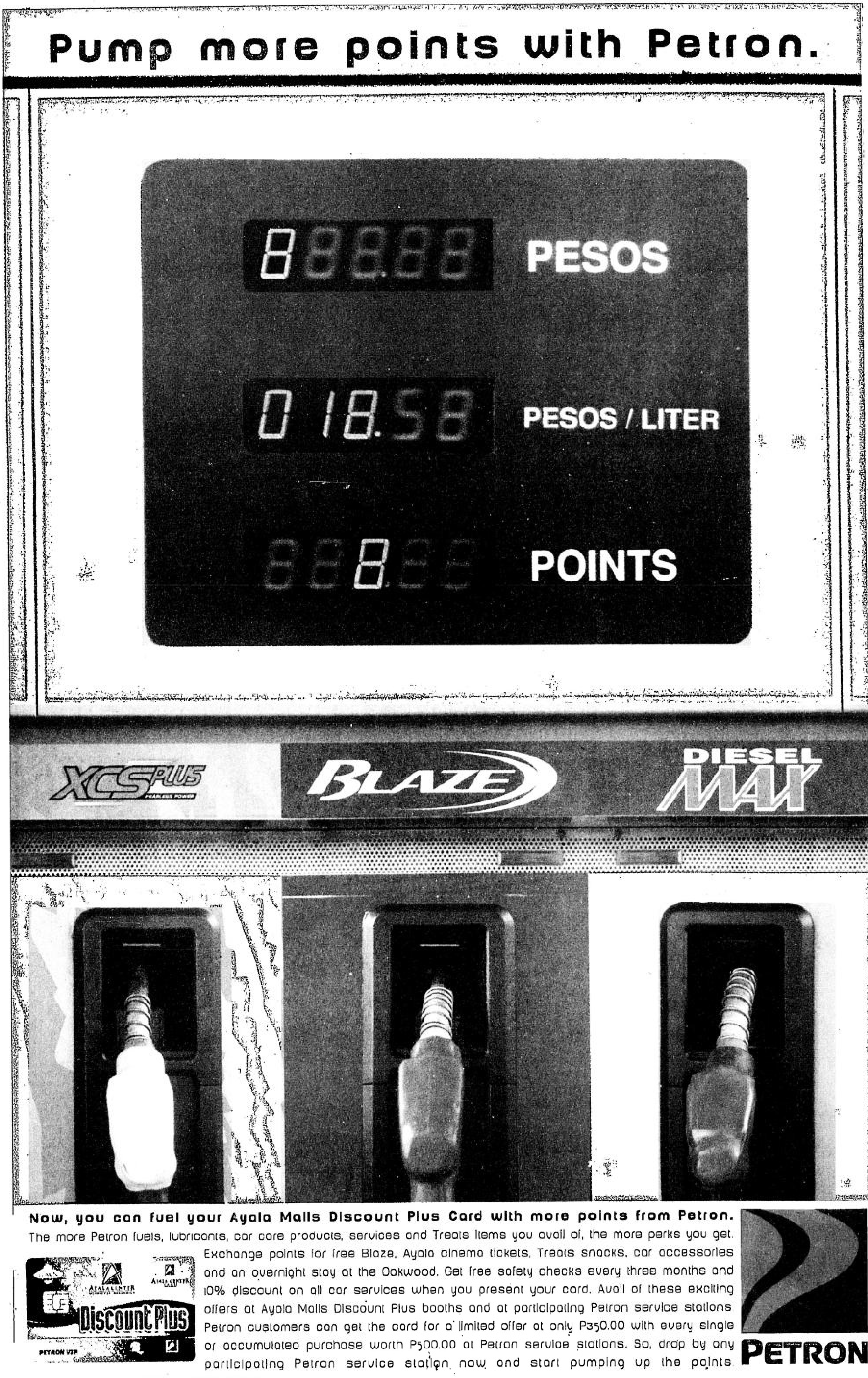
Gold-medal winners will earn P5,000, courtesy of the Philippine Sports Commission. They were also promised a hefty bonus by athletics chief Go Teng Kok.

Go said if the competitions were to be used as gauge, the country would capture no less than seven gold medals in the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

In earning a 7-6-6, gold-silver-bronze medal harvest, the Philippines bested entries from the Middle East and the former Soviet Republics.

The Filipino tracksters also brought home a Philippine record, courtesy of Geralyn Amandoron, who erased the 17-year-old mark of 49.24 of her coach, Erlinda Lavandia, in women's javelin throw. Amandoron heaved 51 meters to win the gold.

June Navarro



Pump more points with Petron.

Now, you can fuel your Ayala Malls Discount Plus Card with more points from Petron.

The more Petron fuels, lubricants, car care products, services and Treats items you avail of, the more perks you get. Exchange points for free Blaze, Ayala cinema tickets, Treats snacks, car accessories and an overnight stay at the Oakwood. Get free safety checks every three months and 10% discount on all car services when you present your card. Avail of these exciting offers at Ayala Malls Discount Plus booths and at participating Petron service stations. Petron customers can get the card for a limited offer at only P350.00 with every single or accumulated purchase worth P500.00 at Petron service stations. So, drop by any participating Petron service station now and start pumping up the points.

PETRON

Per DTI – NCR Permit No. 0467 Series of 2001. From April 20, 2001 to July 20, 2001

BUSTAMANTE

Django nips Bata, 13-11

VERONA, New York—Francisco "Django" Bustamante finally conquered his idol and mentor by defeating Efren "Bata" Reyes, 13-11, in the JOSS Northeast 9-Ball Tour Finals at the Turning Stone Casino Resort here Sunday.

Bustamante's victory gave the Philippines a 1-2 finish in the five-day, double elimination tournament featuring a strong field of 128 top-rated pool pros, including super star Earl Strickland, Johnny Archer and Nick Varner of the United States.

It was the second title won on the US pro billiards tour by a protégé of Manila sportsmen Jose G. Puyat and Aristeo G. Puyat, coming right at the heels of Reyes' victory in the first annual Masters Championship in Chesapeak, Virginia, last week.

The win was worth $15,000 for Bustamante. Reyes took the $9,500 second prize.

Bustamante defeated Reyes 11-4 in the quarterfinals and advanced against his countryman and teammate in the finals after beating Charlie Williams (US), 11-9, in the semifinals.

Abadia rules Hilado Cup

TOP seed Adelo Abadia won in straight sets yesterday to capture the men's singles title in the P100,000 Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the NOTA tennis court in Bacolod City.

Abadia, a former member of the RP Davis Cup team, beat sixth seed Jesus Lapore, 6-3, 6-0, to pocket the P20,000 top purse and 100 points.

In the doubles finals, second seeds Pop Sabandon and Pierre Fernandez pulled off a 6-4, 6-4 win over Abadia and Rolando Ruel Jr. to earn P10,000 in the Philta-sanctioned tournament sponsored by the Negros Tennis Foundation, Mariposa Foundation Inc. and Dunlop.

Meanwhile, third seed Michael Mora III defeated qualifier Tomas Calingasan, 6-0, 6-0, at the start of the P100,000 Mandaue City Open at the MANTADS courts.

Mora will meet James Dumoran, who won by default over wild card Lion Suilo.

Other seeds advancing were No. 4 Pio Tolentino, who beat Ronald Paz, 6-0, 7-5, and No. 7 Nino Salvador, who conquered Gino Bautista, 6-4, 6-3.

Also marching into the next round were Fitzgerald Tabora, Cliff Acasio, Greg Mosqueda, Michael Quinonez, Redentor Econg, McLean Baraquias and Terrence Estrope.

Chua pockets scooter crown

MARK Chua made his presence felt with an impressive victory over his more experienced rivals even as Taiwanese Peter Lee stamped his class in the inaugural leg of the Dreambikes Superstore scooter race series at the Carmona Racing Circuit last Sunday.

Chua staved off the challenge of Edwin Buenaventura and Jolet Jao in one of the day's most exciting races to take the headstart in this 12-part series being organized by Dreambikes Superstore "to promote scooter racing in the country."

The win was a fitting finish for Chua, who controlled the tempo of the race despite repeated rallies by Buenaventura and Jao in the second half of the race.

Adonis Virginio of Dreambikes Superstore awarded the trophies and cash prizes to the winners, assisted by Nelson Magsino.

But the day also belonged to Lee, a Taiwanese making a short vacation in the country, who dominated the special 70cc expert and 70cc novice races.

The 28-year-old Lee defeated Jaime Barcial and Jao in the special 70cc expert category and Albert Sarmiento and R.B. Santos in the 70cc novice class.

The Taiwanese, who operates his own scooter shop in his home province, figured in a tight battle with Barcial and Jao and made his move only in the tight battle with Barcial and Jao in the final two laps to seize the checkered flag.

Virginio said the overall champions in the 70cc expert, 70cc novice and 50cc novice will receive brand-new European-made scooters at the end of the 12-part series.

The other winners were Jaime Barcial, who topped the multi-brand 50cc expert; Ivan Santiago, who ruled the multi-brand 50cc novice; and Danny Agustin, who topped the Dreambikes 70/50cc novice.

Barcial defeated Jao and younger brother Mark Anthony Barcial in the multi-brand 50cc expert; Santiago beat Santos, Michael Roxas, Mackoy Alanon and Bart Cruz in the multi-brand 50cc novice; and Agustin outclassed PJ Bonza and Alex Ching in the Dreambikes 70/50cc novice.

The other race schedule are June 10, June 24, July 1, July 22, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 29, Nov. 18 and Dec. 2.

For details, call Dreambikes Superstore at 951-2602 to 04 or e-mail at dreambss@compass.com.ph

- **Virra Mall fire toll: P50M lost, 10 injured**
- **Sue your father instead, Abalos chides Domingo**

A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

It's still red alert in south Metro

BY NELSON FLORES

SOUTHERN Police District Office authorities will remain on red alert after the lifting of the state of rebellion by President Macapagal-Arroyo as a precaution against criminal elements.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, SPDO director, said the decision to keep the office on high alert despite the lifting of the state of rebellion was made in the wake of increased criminal activities like the bombing of the Araneta Commercial Complex in Cubao, Quezon City, blamed on the notorious Martilyo Gang.

Gutierrez said the robbery gang is also believed to be responsible for the grenade attack at the Gotesco Grand Central Mall in Caloocan two weeks ago, and other violent heists in Tondo and Binondo, Manila.

The SPDO chief said the cities of Pasay and Makati would be closely watched because these are the areas where the gang would most likely strike next.

He added he would not allow his men to be taken by surprise by these criminal elements.

Gutierrez also warned gang members not to strike in southern Metro Manila.

"We are prepared to take every measure allowed by law to deal with these elements," he said.

Gutierrez added that the heightened alert status was also meant to ensure peace and order in southern Metro Manila throughout the election period.

He said because the election period has reached the crucial stage, his men are now closely monitoring political developments, especially in Makati and Pasay.

Jose Concepcion, National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) chair, said he will meet with Gutierrez and local representatives of the Parish Pastoral Council, Commission on Elections, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Department of Interior and Local Government and the Liga ng mga Barangay this week to seek support for Namfrel's Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections (HOPE) thrust.

Concepcion told the INQUIRER that one

IT'S STILL RED/ A22

GMA wants jailed rioters released

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has asked the Department of Justice to work for the release of pro-Estrada demonstrators who were charged for the May 1 riot near Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday. Tiglao said the President, who has said she was not blaming the demonstrators but their leaders, is awaiting recommendation from the DOJ.

About 100 rioters were arrested for the daring attack on the Palace by demonstrators loyal to the ousted president. More than half of them are detained at the Western Police District and the rest are in Camp Crame in Quezon City. *Juliet L. Javellana*

Told that it was affection, girl allowed pa to rape her

BY AGNES DONATO

SHE was convinced by her own mother that it was a form of affection.

But after five years of being raped by her stepfather, a 17-year-old girl finally broke her silence yesterday and reported the abuse to Pasig City police.

The girl accused Raul Sinito, 41, of Barangay Palatiw in Pasig City, of raping her since 1996 when she was only 12.

She told police she would have reported the abuses earlier, but her mother led her to believe that her stepfather was only showing her affection every time he would rape her.

Investigation showed Sinito would rape the girl whenever they were left alone in their house.

TOLD THAT/ A22

USA Vitamin Sale!

Prices good until May 26, 2001

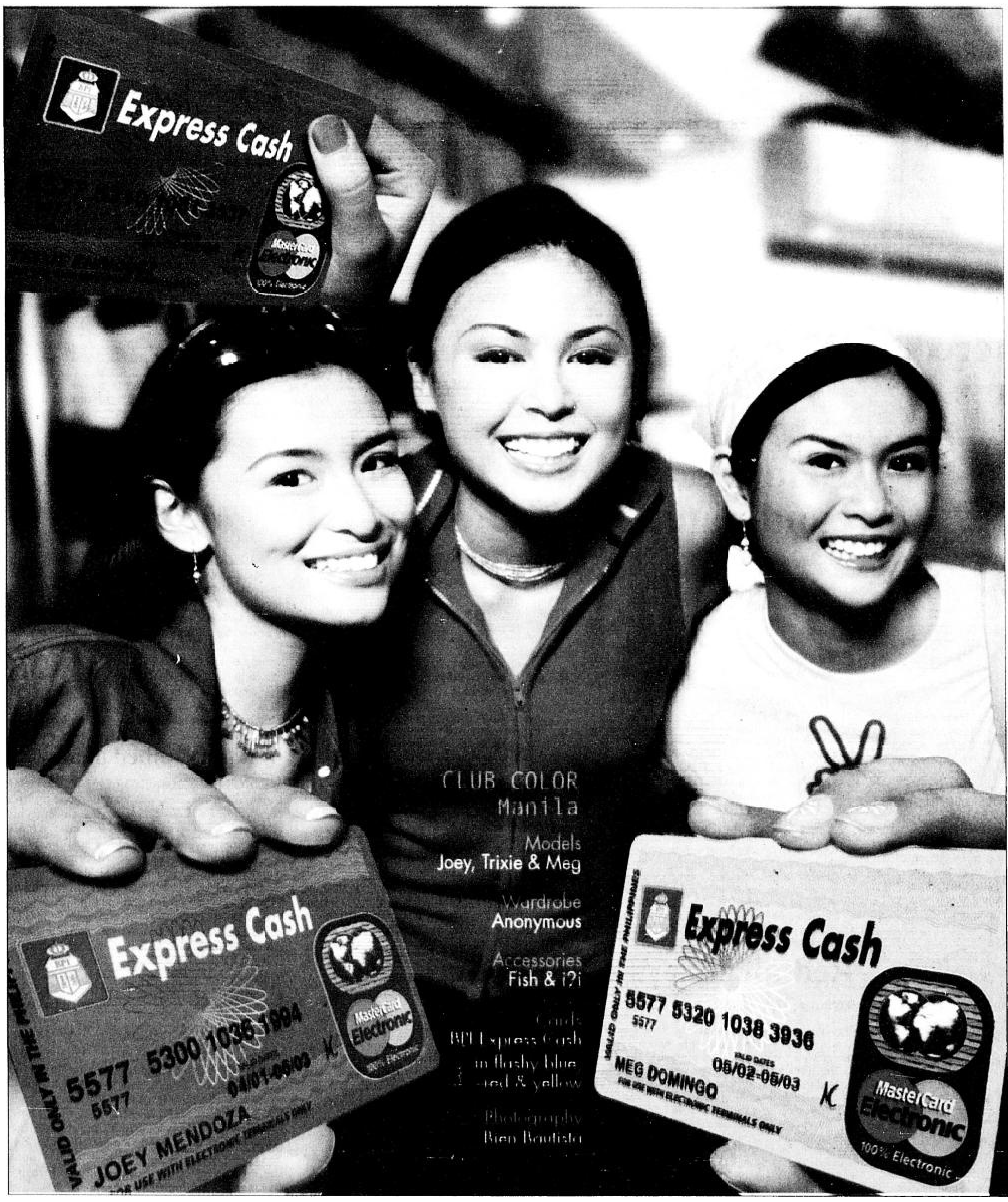
•Ampalaya. 500mg: P8. •Glutathione: P20.
•Grapeseed Extract. 100mg: P13. •Dhea: P7.
•Chitosan*(Fat Absorber)*: P7. •Fish Oil: P4.
•Ginkgo Extract: P8. •MSM. 1,000mg: P7.
•CoQ10. 30mg: P15. •Oral Chelation: P9.
•Shark Cartilage. P10. • Pycnogenol: P9.
•Lipoic Acid: P10. •Chlorella. 500mg: P6.
VHS Reflexology, Aromatherapy, Jazzercise, Iridology, Tai-Chi, J. Pilates, Shiatsu, etc.

For price list, orders, or deliveries, contact:
Rm. 215, PCED Hostel, UP Campus
Quezon City •Tel. 928-3464 & 435-0503

Wazzzzup?

8th day BAR • CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	FREESTYLE	P 400 CONSUMABLE ☎634.7696/98
AUDIOTORIUM 23 WEST AVE., QUEZON CITY	RUBBERBAND	374.2330 / 373.5574
ACOUSTICS & BILLIARDS Bugsy BASEMENT #208 TOMAS MORATO	LOUIE	D' ONLY BILLIARD & MUSIC HALL IN Q.C
Café OVERDRIVE	TERESA GARCIA	FREE ENTRANCE 818.5555/813.1348
Cowboy Grill BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	GOALKEYS BROWNIE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1190 ARQUIZA ST. MABINI	MUSIC CIRCUIT STAY TUNED/CITY BORN	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 41 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	SERSIDE PUZZLES	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	HOMOSAPIENS HIMIG	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
KAMPO 2086 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	FAT SESSION LO C/GROOVE	P200 CONSUMABLE ☎373.5110
EXAMINER'S LITE n'LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST. Q.C.	ARPIE & D' MULTIVITAMINS 7TH SOUL	P 150 CONSUMABLE ☎373.2221
MUSIC WAREHOUSE	PART-E REVEAL	NO ENTRANCE FEE 735.1280/735.1405
PADI'S POINT MINDAVE MINDANAO AVE. COR. CONGS., Q.C.	FREE VERSE M POWER	BEER P25 ONLY! 453.0080/925.3117
SOUNDSTAGE Entertainment Hall & Restaurant RICHMOND CTR. CAINTA, RIZAL	ADVENT CALL BROWMEN	FREE ENTRANCE ☎678.7213/15
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA	SPECIAL EDITION BLIZZARD	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎522.0429
TROPICAL FOREST	MARMALADE	LUNCH SPECIAL 3 COURSE MEAL/P 195

TUESDAY, MAY 8 912-8983



NEW BPI Express Cash
it's cash you can flash!

FASHION FLASH

IT'S A BACK-TO-SCHOOL COLOR MAKE-OVER FROM BPI EXPRESS CASH.

EC TO GET!

Three ways to apply: Visit any of over 400 BPI and BPI Family Bank GMMA branches. Or call your BPI phonebanker at 89-100. Or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

EC TO FLASH!

Be ready to flash your card in more than 20,000 establishments nationwide. Hang out in the coolest gigs. Shop in the hippest stores. You just earned mega cool points!

EC TO RELOAD!

For non-stop flashing, reload in any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch. For Express Teller Cardholders, enroll in Check-Free payments and transfer funds via phone, ATM or internet.

150 YEARS
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

EC FREEBIE!

Apply at any GMMA BPI Express Banking Center, or through the Express Phone 89-100, or at www.bpiexpressonline.com -- load P1,000 and you get a FREE pen that matches your card. Claim your freebie at any GMMA BPI Express Banking Center and start a fashion flash. Offer is until June 30, 2001.

FREE FASHION PENS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1186, Series of 2001

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Sue your father instead, Abalos chides Domingo

AGNES E. DONATO

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday said his poll rival Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo Jr. should instead sue his own father over the P1.8-billion misused funds which have become a big issue in the May 14 elections.

After being hit by Domingo the other day, Abalos charged that the problem came from a failure by Ernesto Domingo Sr. to comply with the rules of the Commission on Audit when he was still the city mayor.

MAYOR Abalos with young friends.

Abalos said there was no truth in any of young Domingo's claims and dismissed the charges as "baseless and motivated by nothing but political harassment."

Abalos maintained that he has documents to prove that the older Domingo, who ruled Mandaluyong during the martial law years, failed to comply with COA rules and "thus could not account for the properties, funds and other assets of Mandaluyong."

"To be fair to all parties, my rival should sue his own father, who should be haled to court for failing to comply with COA rules," Abalos said in a statement.

Abalos also denied that he had failed to answer the graft charges filed against him by Domingo before the Ombudsman.

He added that his reply to the Office of the Ombudsman was received on April 17, contrary to the allegations made by the opposition.

"I categorically and unequivocally deny all allegations of fund anomalies and technical malversation. Contrary to their (Domingo camp) allegations, the city government has substantially complied with all COA requirements and recommendations," Abalos said.

He added that the issues raised by Domingo on the inventory and cash advances cover an accumulated period of 31 years covering four mayors, three treasurers, three accountants and about a dozen resident auditors.

Among the mayors Abalos was alluding to were Domingo Sr., Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and himself.

Abalos added that the COA report Domingo has used against him did not mention anything about missing funds but "only required a physical inventory of the fixed assets of the city government consisting of land, buildings, vehicles, furniture and other assets amounting to P1.3 billion.

"What the COA wanted was only a listing of fixed assets," the mayor said. He added that, in compliance, he had formed a special committee in May last year to conduct the physical inventory the COA had required of the city government.

Abalos maintained that City Hall had since submitted to COA a series of inventory listings of the public properties.

On the issue of the alleged unliquidated cash advances, Abalos claimed that the amount had actually been reduced from the previous balance of P132.5 million to P58 million during his term.

He also expressed hope that there would be "a hefty reduction of the remaining balance" after city accountant Elmer Santos asked the city auditor to write off the accounts of former city personnel who are either deceased, retired, terminated from the service or could no longer be located.

Virra Mall fire toll: P50M lost, 10 injured

AGNES E. DONATO

AFTER destroying some P50 million in properties and causing injuries to 10 firefighters, the fire at the Virra Mall Shopping Center in San Juan was put out on Sunday, some 35 hours after it broke out

The fire, which began at 12:20 p.m. on Saturday, was completely extinguished shortly before 11 p.m. on Sunday.

FO3 Domingo Cabug, arson investigator, said the third floor of the mall's left wing was damaged almost entirely by the blaze.

Cabug added that a total of 72 stalls in the third floor were destroyed, while merchandize on the first and second floors were soaked.

Although there were no fatalities reported, at least 10 firefighters were injured in the fire.

Senior Insp. Eloy Gabriel, San Juan fire marshal, sustained an abrasion on the knee when he tripped over a water hose.

SFO2 Jose Dacomos, on the other hand, was cut by a broken glass on his right arm. Dacomos was treated at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center before being released.

The other firemen on the injured list reportedly suffered from nausea after having inhaled thick smoke.

Meanwhile, Cabug claimed that the cause of the fire had yet to be verified.

Earlier reports said the fire was triggered off by the explosion of a liquefied petroleum gas tank inside a Jollibee branch at the third floor of the mall.

"It may be an LPG tank that had a leak or a loose connection in an electrical installation. We also have to check the contents of the stockroom for combustible materials," he said.

Some 40 fire trucks were sent to the scene after the fire alert was raised to Task Force Delta on Sunday morning.

Firemen complained they had a difficulty putting off the blaze due to lack of breathing apparatus and fire hydrants around the mall.

Fire fighters also complained that the building had very poor ventilation as their effort to locate the source of the blaze was hampered by thick, black smoke.

Built in 1975, the mall was host to stores selling cell phones, computer equipment, ready-to-wear clothes and appliances at relatively lower prices.

SCENE outside Virra Mall at the height of the fire.

Cop threatens to shoot mayor over traffic row

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A NUEVA Ecija mayor is set to file criminal charges against a Marikina police officer who allegedly poked a gun at him and his family during a traffic altercation yesterday morning in Valenzuela City.

Virgilio Bote, 47, municipal mayor of General Tinio in Nueva Ecija, said that PO2 John Robert Michael Catiis, 33, of Sta. Maria, Bulacan threatened to kill him with a gun at about 12:45 a.m. at the North Luzon Expressway.

Valenzuela Police are preparing charges of grave threats and violation of the Omnibus Election Code gun ban against Catiis, who claimed to be a member of the Marikina Police.

Police records showed that Bote, his family, and driver Alexander Diaz were on their way to Manila on board a white Ford E-150 van with license Plate No. WRZ-370, when the incident occurred.

At the Paso de Blas stretch of the expressway in Valenzuela, Catiis who was in a white Toyota Corolla with license Plate No. PPS-527 accidentally hit Bote's club wagon, police said.

The impact left a scratch on the mayor's vehicle. This prompted Bote to get off his car and confront Catiis, investigation showed.

Police said that when Bote was about to reach Catiis, the policeman poked his .9 mm Beretta service pistol at the mayor, but driver Diaz managed to wrest it from Bote.

Heroic cop didn't deserve accolade?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I DON'T mean to be a killjoy, but PO1 Grant Fausto L. Savedia, who was praised by no less than President Arroyo for being "mega tolerant" towards his attackers, probably didn't deserve the accolade.

Savedia didn't shoot his attackers apparently because he panicked and didn't know what to do, not because he was following orders of maximum tolerance towards the mob that attacked Malacanang. He looked dazed in the picture. It showed his lack of training in dealing with a crisis situation.

If he was really tolerant of his attackers, then he was stupid! He was lucky he didn't get killed. And where were his comrades at the time he was being attacked?

* * *

Savedia would have been justified to shoot his attackers who were numerous and armed with rocks and probably knives.

The picture of the fallen Savedia holding his gun and not knowing what to do with it while one of his attackers was holding a rock about to be hurled at him was an ugly sight to behold.

Law-abiding citizens hate cops who abuse their authority, but they also hate to see a law enforcer being defeated by criminal elements.

* * *

A robbery gang that breaks with a hammer the glass windows of jewelry stores and scoops the items on display should be busted immediately. Its name, "Martillo Gang," is derived from the carpentry tool used in the break-in.

But the hammer is just minor tool it uses. The gang throws a fragmentation grenade at a crowd of shoppers to escape pursuing security guards.

The police should work double time on the gang so it won't kill or hurt more innocent citizens. The group gets bolder and more merciless after each heist. Its latest caper was on Sunday at the Farmers Market in Cubao, Quezon City where 36 shoppers were wounded after a grenade was thrown at them by gang members to elude arrest by security guards chasing after them.

If you ask enraged citizens, they wouldn't mind seeing all the bodies of these lowlifes lying dead on the pavement after a one-way "shootout" with lawmen.

* * *

By the way, why were there no policemen chasing after the robbers after the heist at a Farmer's Plaza jewelry store and at the Ever-Gotesco Mall in Caloocan City on April 28?

The police should have learned a lesson from the Ever Gotesco robbery. But there was no cop around to go after the robbers at the Farmer's Plaza. Perhaps the presence of uniformed cops on patrol would have deterred the robbery at the Farmer's Plaza.

The absence of uniformed cops in public places is a reflecton on Deputy Director General Romeo Peña, director of the National Capital Region Police Officew (NCRPO). Mukhang inutil itong si Peña.

* * *

Peña, who rose from the ranks of the police before it became the Philippine National Police (PNP), has always been a mediocre cop.

When he was chief at the Southern Police District (SPD) years ago, all he did was "magpaguapo at magkolekta para sa kanyang simbahan" (make himself look handsome and collect donations for his church), says a former subordinate.

Although he holds a three-star rank and, therefore, already too senior for the position of NCRPO director, which is meant only for a two-star police general, Peña was given the post anyway.

The Macapagal administration wanted to please the politically powerful Iglesia ni Cristo where Peña is a member of good standing.

* * *

The name of Zamboanga City mayoralty candidate Lepeng Wee is being dragged into the "poor people power" revolt. He allegedly sent people from the city to add "warm bodies" to the Edsa crowd that eventually laid siege on Malacañang.

That's unbelievable.

First, because he's too busy campaigning.

Second, he and Erap had a falling out after the deposed president endorsed his rival, Maria Clara Lobregat, instead of him for the mayoral post. Wee is running under the banner of PDP-Laban.

Why would Wee sympathize with Erap who made him a doormat and dumped him like garbage even after he server the deposed president with utmost sincerity?

Goma not registered, rival group claims

BY GERALD LACUARTA AND MAE LORRAINE RAFOLS

THE MOST serious threat yet to Richard Gomez's bid to become a member of Congress through the party list system came yesterday when a rival party-list group questioned his qualification and revealed that the actor was not even a registered voter.

The Citizen's Battle against Corruption (Cibac), in a seven-page complaint filed with the Commission on Elections, said Gomez's name does not appear on the list of registered voters in Barangay Horseshoe, Quezon City where he was supposed to be a resident.

Gomez, first nominee of the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), stated in his nomination form that he was a resident of No. 8 Matipuno St., Horseshoe Village and a registered voter of Precinct 5298A.

But a computer printout from the Comelec submitted as evidence in the complaint showed that Gomez's name was nowhere in the alphabetical list of voters of Precinct 5298A in Barangay Horseshoe. The only Gomez on the list was one Adolfo Kabluyen Gomez.

GOMEZ

Jess Martinez, legal counsel and nominee of Cibac, said Gomez was thus not qualified to be nominated under the party-list system since he was not a registered voter.

Martinez said the actor-sportsman violated Republic Act No. 7941 or the Party List Law which states that "no person shall be nominated as party list representative unless he is a natural born citizen of the Philippines, a registered voter, and a resident of the Philippines for a period of not less than one year."

DSC Power832
More than an alarm System
AUTOMATION & SECURITY, INC.
Manila Office (Main): 210 N. Domingo St. San Juan, MM • Tel. No. 727-2727 • Fax No. 727-6250
Pampanga Branch: Tel/Fax No. (045) 963-2021 Cebu Branch: Tel No. (032) 346-8704
e-mail: info@asi.com.ph • website: http://www.asi.com.ph
We repair, overhaul and upgrade existing security systems.

glass break detector
keypad
motion detector
door/window contacts
SENSOR
ALARM
EMERGENCY RESPONSE
call us for FREE demo/consultation

Evidence vs Mark Jimenez, candidate, being checked

BY CATHY YAMSUAN AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

POLICE are keeping a close watch on Mark Jimenez, a candidate for congressman in Manila, after receiving "raw information" that he aided those who tried to topple the Macapagal administration, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez initially refused to comment on reporters' questions on Jimenez, apparently worried he might give the impression government is engaged in a witchhunt for suspected enemies.

But later he admitted the police are now "following several leads," indicating Jimenez was involved in the Labor Day violence around Malacañang.

"We've been following several leads that certain businessmen were involved in the recent rebellion," Perez said. "There is no information (on it yet), the police are following it up."

He said until investigators have gathered evidence linking Jimenez to the frustrated overthrow attempt, the report about his alleged participation "doesn't mean anything."

Jimenez, a congressional contender for the sixth district of Manila, lately hit a snag in his campaign when five of his supporters were allegedly beaten up by men belonging to an opponent's camp in Sta. Ana, Manila early Sunday morning.

In a news conference, Perez said efforts to probe specific individuals for possible links to the coup should not be seen as a "witchhunt."

"Only those who participated in the plan to topple the government should be accused," Perez stressed. "Those who merely supported anti-administration sentiments should not be charged if their participation is limited to expressing their own belief."

In an earlier report, an unnamed source claimed Jimenez solicited contributions running into hundreds of millions of pesos from businessmen to finance a coup.

Jimenez was said to have plans of buying influence from the group that wanted to unseat Ms Macapagal.

The same source believed that Jimenez already collected close to P1 billion, a significant portion of which was allegedly used to pay and feed those who stormed Malacañang on May 1.

The report also said Jimenez used as his conduit to wealthy businessmen a senatorial candidate now declared a fugitive from justice.

This candidate is said to be Jimenez's partner in a fast-food chain business which they established after their benefactor Joseph Estrada rose to power in 1998.

In Manila, Jimenez supporters Ramil Silvino, 20, August Puzon, 18, Norman David, 29, German Bernardo, 27, and Carmelo Alfaro, 51, all residents of Tondo, Manila, were allegedly beaten up by men on board a Mercedes van.

Red alert ...

(From page A21)

of the things he would ask during the meeting is to bar local barangay officials from entering the polling places, except when voting or in times of emergency.

He said barangay officials are very powerful, especially during election period, and their unnecessary presence inside the polling places could have a telling effect on voters.

Concepcion, chair of barangay of the posh Forbes Park in Makati City, also expressed alarm over reports that underworld characters have joined the electoral race to protect their interests.

He said he fears this development and has urged the PNP to ensure the orderly conduct of elections.

Told that ...

(From page A21)

The girl told police Sinito would touch her private parts every time he had the opportunity. She said the last rape happened on April 29.

She said she was washing dishes when Sinito suddenly came from behind and started fondling her. She then ran out of their house and reported the rape to the Bantay Bata Crime Center, but she was not properly accommodated, the girl claimed.

Yesterday, she went to police to file rape charges against Sinito, who is still at large. ***With a report from Nickson Ryan Matias***

METROBRIEFS

Vagrant dies after being hit by 3 cars

A VAGRANT was killed after three different vehicles hit him, tossing his body about on the road at dawn yesterday in Pandacan, Manila. Dominador Selina, 54, a native of Calbayog, Samar with no permanent address in Manila, was wandering along the south-bound lane of Quirino Avenue in Pandacan about 11:45 p.m. when he was first hit by a jeepney, said SPO3 Wilfredo Estamaquio of the city traffic police. The impact hurled Selina straight onto the path of a Mitsubishi L-300 van, which then tossed Selina in the way of a taxicab that ran over him, police said. ***Jerome Aning***

Vendor stabbed dead

VENDOR Jose Macawili, 48, of 138 E. Garcia St. Cubao, Quezon City, was stabbed dead by his cousin during a family reunion on Sunday night in Quezon City. Suspect Cesar E. Esquerdo, 32, of 429 Hornet St., Palar Village in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, stabbed Macawali after a drinking bout with the victim, according to PO2 Joseph Dino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. He said the cousins were having a drink with their other relatives at 328 Roosevelt Ave. when the two got into an argument at about 6 p.m. Sunday. In a drunken rage, Esquerdo stabbed Macawili twice, Dino said. The suspect managed to escape before other relatives could get to him, Dino added. The victim was declared dead on arrival at the Saint Agnes Hospital. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

Taxi driver found dead

TAXI driver Rex Dexter F. Ilejay, 49, of 36 L.K. Santos St. Marikina Heights, Marikina City, was found dead with several stab wounds inside his white Nissan Sentra Loiji taxi (PWH-803), said SPO1 Cresenciano Bajao of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. A passerby found Ilejay's body about 11 p.m. Sunday inside his taxi parked at the corner of Biak-na-Bato and Del Monte Avenue in Barangay Manresa, Quezon City. Philip C. Tubeza

SM CINEMA GUIDE

SM Dial-A-Movie • Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DTS	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR. 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
9	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
10	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
4	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST?
2 EXIT WOUNDS
3 HALIK NG SIRENA
4 THE MEXICAN

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1 RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 SAY IT ISN'T SO — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 EXIT WOUNDS THX — in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere) — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
5 FINDING FORRESTER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 THE MEXICAN — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 SUGAR AND SPICE — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 SAY IT ISN'T SO — in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 EXIT WOUNDS — in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 SUGAR AND SPICE — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1 EXIT WOUNDS THX — in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 SAY IT ISN'T SO — in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE MEXICAN — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 SUGAR AND SPICE — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2 (SDDS)	RECESS
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
8 [illegible]	BALIKTARAN
9 [illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 [illegible]	HALIK NG SIRENA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	EXTREME WARRIOR
3 (DTS)	INIT NG DUGO
4	THE CROW
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE MEXICAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	HALIK NG SERENA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	HALIK NG SERNA
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	SUGAR & SPICE
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	INIT NG DUGO
8	EXTREME WARRIOR

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	EXIT WOUNDS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ABAKADA...INA
2	MADERASO

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	HALIK NG SIRENA
3	THE SEDUCER

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALIKTARAN
A	EXIT WOUNDS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	BALIKTARAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	HALIK NG SERENA
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8 (SDDS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
9 (DOLBY)	SUGAR & SPICE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	HALIK NG SIRENA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	EXTREME WARRIOR
9	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	THE MEXICAN
6	EXTREME WARRIOR
7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
8	SUGAR & SPICE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	HALIK NG SIRENA

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HALIK NG SIRENA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HALIK NG SIRENA
Lords	WAG PO WAG PO
Jennet	HALIK NG SIRENA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	HALIK NG SIRENA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	BALIKTARAN

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	BALIKTARAN
4	EXTREME WARRIOR
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	INIT SA DUGO

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SIRENA
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545 7202

1 (DOLBY)	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN
5	SWEET NOVEMBER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.0883

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THEY NEST
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE SEDUCER

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4608

1 (DTS)	BALIKTARAN
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALIKTARAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BALIKTARAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXTREME WARRIOR

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HALIK NG SIRENA
2	BALIKTARAN
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BALIKTARAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	ANTI-TRUST
4 (DTS EX)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY dts SDDS

PLANET 9 BALL
BILLIARDS-BAR FAMILY KTV

Robinson's Place
2nd Level (Pedro Gil Gate)
Ermita, Manila

FOR RESERVATIONS PLS. CALL 5258292

Plus One bags best new artist award

CHRISTIAN boy band and local music scene's latest heartthrobs Plus One are this year's best new artists at the recently concluded 32nd Annual Dove Awards held on April 28 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Hosted by Michael W. Smith with a lineup of presenters headed by the legendary Grammy Award-winning songwriter/producer David Foster, the Dove Awards is contemporary Christian and gospel music's annual celebration of its industry's achievement.

Winning their first major award ever, Plus One shares Dove Award honors with the likes of Steven Curtis Chapman, who bagged the male vocalist of the year award and Smith himself, who got three.

Not bad for guys whose debut album "The Promise," featuring the hit single "Last Flight Out" and the current airwave cruiser "Here In My Heart," just went gold a mere few weeks after going on their first Southeast Asian tour.

Aside from the New Artist of the Year category, Plus One was also nominated for song of the year ("Written In My Heart"), group of the year, pop/contemporary album of the Year and pop/contemporary recorded song.

"The Promise" is available under Warner Music Philippines.

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS
e-mail:htc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA
536-7809-14

❶ EXIT WOUNDS
❷ THE MEXICAN
❸ SAY IT ISN'T SO
❹ NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
❺ HALIK NG SIRENA
❻ SUGAR AND SPICE
❼ RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

GALLERIA

OPENING SOON
JUNE 2001
with 10 state of the art cinemas
equipped with THX, DOLBY, DTS, SDDS

IMUS
(046)875-3838

❶ EXIT WOUNDS
❷ SUGAR AND SPICE
❸ HALIK NG SIRENA
❹ SAY IT ISN'T SO
❺ NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
❻ RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453

❶ THE NEST
❷ DOUBLE TAKE
❸ NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
❹ THE MEXICAN
❺ THE GIFT
❻ ABAKADA...INA

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	HALIK NG SIRENA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SUGAR & SPICE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	EXIT WOUNDS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	EXIT WOUNDS
ODEON-2	EXTREME WARRIOR
ROBEN	BALIKTARAN
TANDEM-1	ALIW MATAMIS NA LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	HANNIBAL / WAY OF GUN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	HALIK NG SIRENA
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79, 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-6	ABAKADA...INA
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-12	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-14	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-3	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

'Handog' concert

FLORANTE, the man behind the well-loved patriotic folk song "Ako'y Pinoy," is scheduled for a nostalgic return engagement titled "Handog," May 26, Saturday, at Hotel Rembrandt.

Among the memorable hits identified with Florante are "Handog," "Abakada," "Pinay," "Sana" (popularized by Kristina Paner) and "Bugtong Bugtong."

Florante is among the icons of the late '70s which also include Mike Hanopol, Sampaguita, Freddie Aguilar and Heber Bartolome.

To this day, "Handog" continues to be an enduring OPM classic that appeals to the young and old alike.

One of Florante's memorable live concert gigs was when he did the front act for the popular folk duo, America, and did patriotic songs to the crowd's delight. As a fitting finale in that show, he strummed the few bars of America's hit song, "A Horse With No Name," only to stop abruptly to say, "Hindi ko puwedeng kantahin ito." Then he sang his mega hit, "Ako'y Isang Pinoy."

Expected to join Florante in the May 26 show are Hajji Alejandro, Rico J. Puno and Richard Merk, among others.

LOUIE'S CINEMA

THX It Will Change the Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

NOW SHOWING

EXIT WOUNDS
(R-18 RT-1:40)
Action-Adventure-Drama
Starring:
Steven Seagal
DMX
Isaiah Washington

May 8 - Tuesday
6:20 PM - CLOSED
8:30 PM - CLOSED
10:40 PM - Exit Wounds

GET A COPY of the 4th Issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CHINA

LRP Foundation Inc.
Louie's THX Cinema Bldg., Mile Long Compound Amorsolo st., Makati City- Tel. no. 7651-20-10
FAX no. 892-3340 Visit us at www.louis THX.com.ph

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Par for the mermaid-movie course

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR years now, **Isabel Granada** has been getting offers to star in films—provided she goes sexy. She's held off for the longest possible time, but she finally said yes for "Halik ng Sirena."

Unfortunately, the movie has been overtaken by the current clampdown on bold movies, so Isabel's debut as a sexy star has been rendered rather tame.

In the film, the mermaid she plays falls in love with a fisherman (**Carlos Morales**), and this union of incompatible creatures enrages nature into coming up with one disaster after another.

But every 10 years or so, mermaids are given a window of opportunity to grow legs and live with the men they love, so Isabel takes full advantage of this.

However, Carlos' sugar mommy (**Pinky Amador**) resents her intrusion and uses the village idiot to spread the rumor that Isabel is responsible for all of the tragedies that have lain waste to their small fishing community.

Thus, Isabel and Carlos' love isn't given the time and space it needs to bloom, so the movie ends on a bittersweet note.

Toward the movie's conclusion, we are informed that Carlos' own mother (**Anita [illegible]nda**) used to be a mermaid herself and she too was "punished" for daring to love a human, hence her downbeat view of Isabel and Carlos' romance.

Fine, but these developments are merely par for the mermaid-movie course, so "Halik ng Sirena" ends up as an unremarkable viewing experience except for Isabel's portrayal of the unhappy mermaid.

Isabel suits the role because she looks exotic, and she's able to give her character enough heart for viewers to empathize with her sad fate.

Would that the movie's other elements were able to match the acceptable level of her achievement.

Hollywood's Asian connection

RIGHT after the 2000 Oscars honored "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and Asian film people, Hollywood's Asian connection has gone into high gear:

In "Pavilion of Women," **Luo Yan** costars with **Willem Dafoe** in a romantic drama about clashing cultures, adapted from the novel by **Pearl S. Buck**.

In "Kiss of the Dragon," Jet Li romances **Bridget Fonda** when he isn't fighting for his life and freedom as an agent who finds himself framed for murder.

Jackie Chan flies high again in "Rush Hour 2," still with comedian Chris Tucker as his love-hate buddy.

"Eureka" is a Japanese film that will be released this month in the United States. It's about the unusual relationship that develops between the survivors of a violent bus hijacking incident.

Also scheduled for US release, "Time and Tide" is a Hong Kong action thriller about the friendship between a bodyguard and a mercenary that gets tested when they turn out to be adversaries in a deadly struggle.

And movies with Asian settings include "Pearl Harbor" and the expanded version of **Francis Ford Coppola**'s "Apocalypse Now."

Feedback

FROM **Clottie Gealogo-Lucero**, OIC, Dramatic Arts Division of the CCP: "On your recent article on the Ma-Yi theater company in New York: Ma-Yi performed 'Flipzoids' at the CCP from June 3 to 7, 1998 for the Centennial Arts Festival to very good houses. The group also had an interaction with Tanghalang Pilipino, and Ms **Ching Valdes-Aran** conducted a master's class in acting.

"This move of inviting Fil-Am theater groups is part of CCP's program for cultural exchange. In February, 1996, the Pintig Cultural Group based in Chicago was invited to be part of the second National Theater Festival, and in November, 1998, the Kumu Kahua Theater Group based in Hawaii participated in the Philippine International Theater Festival and Conference."

Donita: Gary and Bernadette deserve each other

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

ASKED about the coming wedding of her erstwhile boyfriend **Gary Estrada** and actress **Bernadette Alysson**, MTV Asia veejay **Donita Rose** says she's happy for him.

"There are certain things that I cannot elaborate on," she says. "But I believe this is what Gary really wants. He has always been a hopeless romantic. He wants to get married in his farm and live there. I cannot see myself doing those things.

"I guess he's better off with someone who shares his vision. I believe they deserve each other. I myself have moved on and I'm happy with everything that's been happening in my professional life now."

Donita denies the recent rumor that Gary pursued her again before he even courted Bernadette.

"When my mom heard that, she scolded me right away without even confirming if it was true or not," Donita says. "She was so mad. I had to tell her, 'Can't you ask me first if it's true or not?' That never really happened."

While her career is on the upswing, Do-nita's love life remains in the doldrums after she broke off with her Singapore-based boyfriend nearly two years ago.

"I guess you can't really have both at the same time," she says. "It's been more than a year since I was in a relationship. I'm not looking for anyone now. But if the right one comes, I'll be happy."

She says she's saving her show biz earnings for the future. She makes a fortune as a celebrity endorser, and is in fact the third most successful endorser after **Sharon Cuneta** and **Aga Muhlach**.

"If I'm no longer in show biz, I can go back to school," Donita says. "I just want to do everything that I can and still live comfortably even when I decide to quit show biz."

Going dramatic

EXERCISING her lachrymal glands before the cameras proved to be tough for Donita, who returns to drama after a long spell.

Donita headlines the four episodes of "Larawan" for May, Wednesdays, 9 p.m. on GMA.

Her last acting job was three years ago, when she filmed "Legacy," opposite Hollywood actor **David Hasselhoff**.

"All great things have been happening in my life lately and I haven't shed a tear in two and a half years," she says. "I get emotional personally and I cry a lot, especially when I watch movies, but I got a little rusty in acting."

She takes a break from her glamorous stint on MTV Asia and busies herself with the demanding "Larawan" tapings.

The hardest episode to do was "Fil-Am," the one with veteran actress **Hilda Koronel**, where Donita plays the title role.

"I've never seen her (Hilda) act before and I was so scared to work with her because I know she's really good," Donita says. "But I was very surprised to get to know her personally. I got to know what she's like on and off the camera. She's a very down-to-earth person and she's very professional when it comes to her job. I have this newfound respect for her."

DONITA Rose. While her career is on the upswing, her love life remains in the doldrums.

Donita is also all praise for her younger costar, perennial *contravida* **Gladys Reyes**.

"I was so impressed with Gladys when she did the scene which required her to deliver a two-page dialog," Donita shares. "She didn't fumble or make any mistake. I was so engrossed that I realized only later I was watching Gladys with my mouth open."

The first time she had to cry for a scene in the episode, Donita faced the cameras starting at 3:30 a.m.

"I tried so hard to cry but I couldn't, so I didn't do it," she confesses. "I didn't want it to seem like I was trying too hard. We were able to finish the scene but I didn't really cry."

She enjoyed "Kidnap for Love," the episode with singer-comedian **Janno Gibbs** that will be the pilot on May 9, 9 p.m.

She plays a famous actress who is nice to her fans but a snob in real life. Janno is her No. 1 fan. When he meets her personally, he is disappointed to find out she's a real bitch.

His family kidnaps her to teach her a lesson. In his house, she learns to be a real person and appreciates the simple life. Eventually, the two fall in love with each other.

"When I shot the episode with Janno, my head was throbbing and I wasn't feeling well," Donita says. "But Janno kept me in high spirits. It was really fun to work with him. I'm more comfortable to work on light drama or comedy episodes."

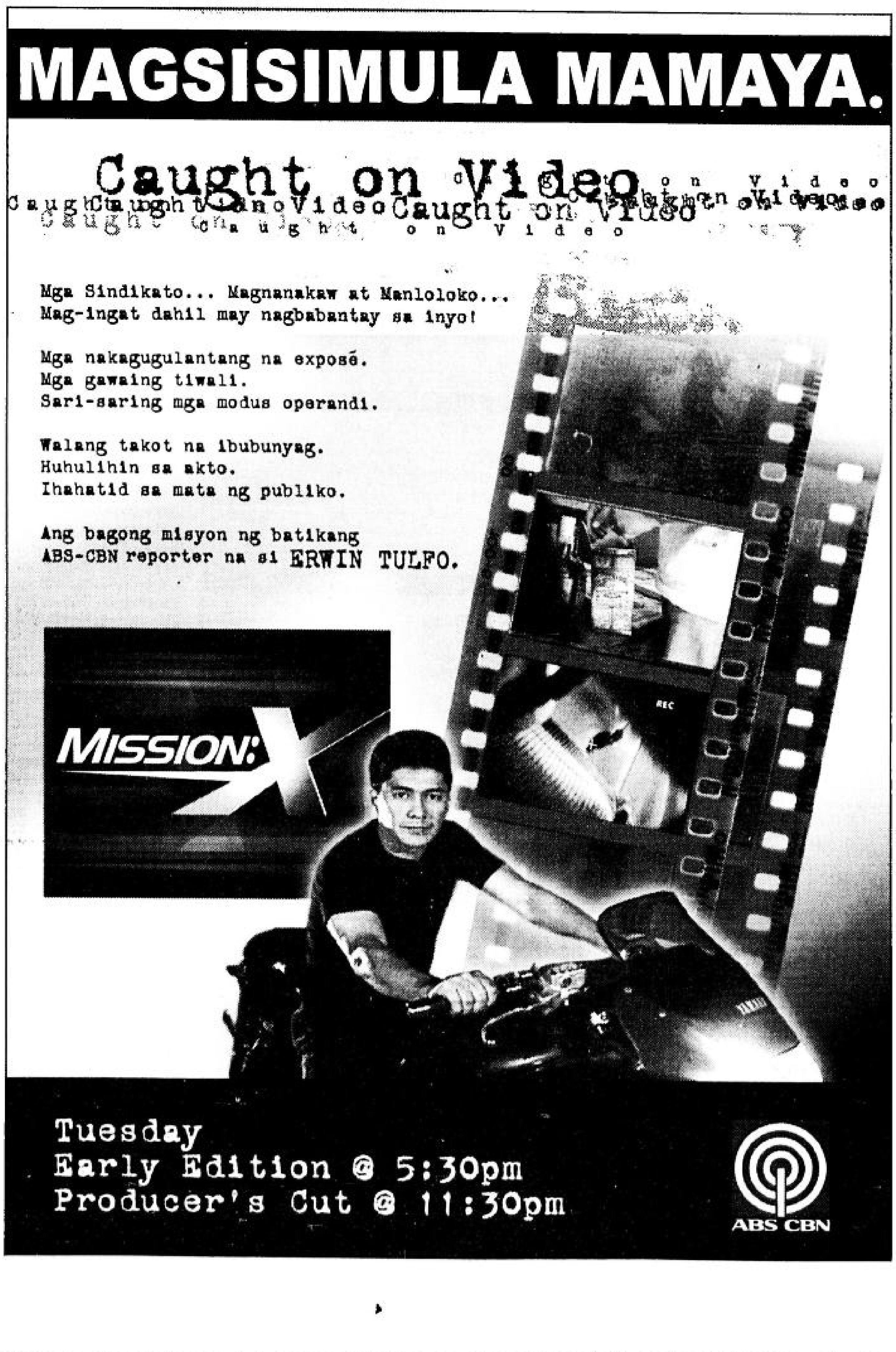
"Larawan" was a breather for Donita, who has been based in Singapore for the past three years.

"When I returned to Singapore, I felt so light after completing all the episodes of 'Larawan,'" she says. "There was something new to talk about."

flowing. You can do the rest easily."

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

SUGAR & SPICE - P 18 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:50	RECESS - G 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	EXIT WOUNDS - R 18 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST - P13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00


MAGSISIMULA MAMAYA.

Caught on Video

Mga Sindikato... Magnanakaw at Manloloko...
Mag-ingat dahil may nagbabantay sa inyo!

Mga nakagugulantang na exposé.
Mga gawaing tiwali.
Sari-saring mga modus operandi.

Walang takot na ibubunyag.
Huhulihin sa akto.
Ihahatid sa mata ng publiko.

Ang bagong misyon ng batikang
ABS-CBN reporter na si ERWIN TULFO.

MISSION: X

Tuesday
Early Edition @ 5:30pm
Producer's Cut @ 11:30pm

ABS CBN

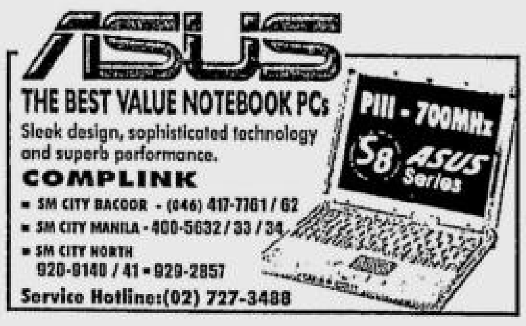
OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
Mula sa Puso ng Bawat Anak
Para sa Bawat Inang Nagmamahal
A Regal Mother's Day Presentation
JACLYN JOSE
RICKY DAVAO
ANA CAPRI
and
CARLO AQUINO
minsan may isang puso
Directed By JOSE JAVIER REYES (DGPI)
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTATION

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
THRILLFEST @ Art Film
features
ANATOMY
THEY CAN'T WAIT TO GET THEIR HANDS ON YOU!
From Germany comes this deft mixture of European sensibilities and the modern horror film. For an ambitious medical student like Paula (FRANKA POTENTE), being chosen to take part in a prestigious anatomy course taught by a legendary professor is a dream come true. But Paula's delight quickly turns to sheer horror, when she finds a young man she met only days before lying in front of her on the dissecting table. Despite all warnings, Paula investigates his mysterious death... even if it means putting her own life in danger.
WINNER
Audience Award @ the German Film Awards 2000

TUESDAY,
MAY 8, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1

BUSINESS

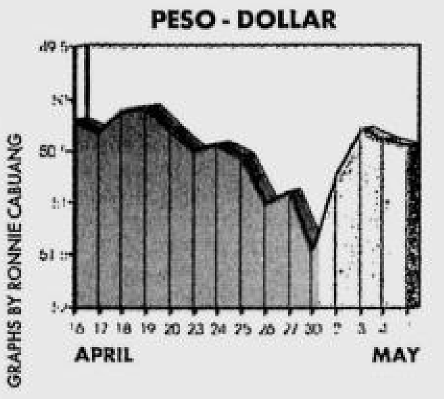
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▣ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor


ASUS
THE BEST VALUE NOTEBOOK PCs
Sleek design, sophisticated technology and superb performance.
COMPLINK
▪ SM CITY BACOOR - (046) 417-7761 / 62
▪ SM CITY MANILA - 400-5632 / 33 / 34
▪ SM CITY NORTH 920-9140 / 41 ▪ 929-2857
Service Hotline:(02) 727-3488
PIII - 700MHz
S8 ASUS Series

Gov't sets $500-M bond float in July

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

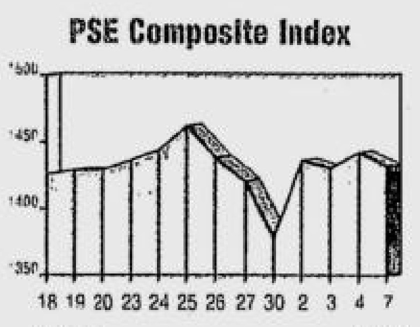
P 50.44 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
May 7, 2001

Y 121.26 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.26 as of 5 p.m., May 7, 2001

GOLD:$265.70/266.20
per ounce Hong Kong,
May 7, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower on profit taking



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES finished lower yesterday on profit taking, with investors sidelined awaiting the outcome of the May 14 midterm election, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 10.51 points, or 0.7 percent, at 1431.91, after rising 0.8 percent Friday.

Bank of the Philippine Islands was among the most active stocks, down P1.50, or 1.9 percent, at P76.50 on 781,900 shares traded, after Moody's Investors Service downgraded the bank's financial strength ratings Friday, traders said.

Turnover remained light at P466.5 million reflecting the ongoing wait-and-see attitude of most investors who want the political waters to clear before venturing back into the market. When trading is normal, volume typically reaches to around the P1-billion mark in a session.

"There's a lack of volume in the market, there are no long-term buyers at this point," said Spencer Yap, assistant vice president at BPI Securities. "Investors remain cautious ahead of the May 14 elections."

Candidates of the administration of President Macapagal are expected to dominate the elections but there is still concern over whether the govern-

SHARES/ B3

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE NATIONAL government is poised to issue $500 million worth of bonds in July and would tap either the US, Samurai or European financial markets for the fund-raising activity.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the bonds would carry a term of five to 10 years and would be launched in the market that will offer the most favorable spread.

Edeza said the borrowing would be a crucial part of the Macapagal administration's mid-year financing program and would allow the government to calibrate its spending amid a huge budget deficit that is expected to hit P145 billion this year.

"We still have to see which option—US, Samurai or Euro—is cheapest for the government. I think we have to choose just one because the issue becomes more successful if the offering is bigger and more liquid," the national treasurer explained.

The government, he added, has yet to decide whether to do the bond issue in one or several tranches.

The financing program until July includes the $150-million private placement from JP Morgan Dean Witter and Chase Manhattan Bank that the government wants to complete within the month.

Edeza admitted that the $500-million bond issue scheduled in July could be affected by the impending change in leadership at the Department of Finance.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo has been tapped to replace Executive Secretary Renato de Villa who may have to go on an extended vacation following his triple heart bypass operation.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas is being considered to replace Romulo, but Malacañang has yet to decide on his appointment.

Romulo earlier said that aside from the bond float, the Macapagal administration was also discussing plans to issue new Brady bonds in exchange for the existing Brady bonds worth $1.9 billion.

Contrary to Edeza's view, the finance chief maintained that the foreign borrowing was not necessary in the government's financing program for this year.

"I don't think we are going to need it for the year but we have to be prepared just in case," said the finance chief who admitted the government has to borrow about P190 billion this year from the local and foreign markets.

While the government borrowings had been concentrated on the domestic market, Romulo said foreign creditors have informed him that it was already time for the Philippines to tap foreign funds.

"While they say it is time, we would like to leave the doors open and wait for better spreads," the finance chief said.

Foreign investment houses Credit Suisse First Boston, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, and Lehman Brothers earlier said the Philippines now boasts a better credit risk among emerging markets.

However, foreign ratings firm Moody's Investor Services only recently maintained its negative outlook for the Philippines because of what it said were "re-emerging political uncertainties."

BOARD REPRESENTATION

SMC compromise looms

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

AFTER securing a fresh mandate as chair of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. is now firming up an amicable settlement with the Macapagal administration on the company's board representation.

An INQUIRER source yesterday said both parties have accomplished a major breakthrough to end the legal battle for control of SMC's 15-member board of directors.

"It will be finished very soon," the source said, noting that the issue would no longer drag on for the rest of the year.

To date, the source said the Cojuangco camp was amenable to giving the government additional board representation. But the source said the government would get only one additional seat and not five as it originally wanted.

There are only two SMC board members who are allied with the Macapagal administration—Government Service and Insurance System president Winston Garcia and Social Security System Administrator Vitaliano Nañagas III.

GSIS has already gone to the Court of Appeals to demand an additional board representation for itself as it solicited proxies from other shareholders in time for the May 3 SMC stockholders' meeting.

On top of the GSIS' bid, the national government had wanted to boot out the five SMC directors who were named during the ousted Estrada regime. Cojuangco's group managed to have the five directors reelected during the May 3 stockholders' meeting using the sequestered SMC shares.

The five were Estrada's brother-in-law Raul de Guzman, Alan Lopez Dee, Benjamin Paulino, Hermogenes Tantoco and Espiridion Laxa.

In a television interview last week, President Macapagal herself declared that her administration was not keen on ousting Cojuangco as SMC chair.

Cojuangco, on the other hand, also declared after the stockholders' meeting last Thursday that he was willing to enter into a compromise with the government.

Analysts said that should the courts favor the government's petition that the PCGG be allowed to vote on the shares, it would likely be Cojuangco's last year at the helm of SMC.

Treasury rejects all T-bill bids

THE GOVERNMENT rejected all bids for its treasury bills after banks sought unusually higher bids at yesterday's auction.

The banks' bid to raise treasury bill yields came even after the Macapagal administration had lifted the declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila.

However, traders said the market continued to penalize the government for what it perceived as the unresolved political uncertainty leading to the May 14 elections.

Had the Treasury accepted the bids, the yield of the benchmark 91-day instrument would have gone up by 0.24 percentage point to 10.342 percent while the six-month and one-year papers would have risen by 0.37 point and 0.412 point to 11.692 percent and 12.134 percent, respectively.

"They can keep their liquidity if they wish because the P15.6 billion in proceeds from the Retail Treasury Bonds give us flexibility to re-

TREASURY/ B4

Japan firm to spend ₱500M for RP project

BY G. CABACUNGAN JR.

JAPANESE electronics giant Rohm Electronics is spending another P500 million this year to expand its production of computer chips at its factory in Cavite.

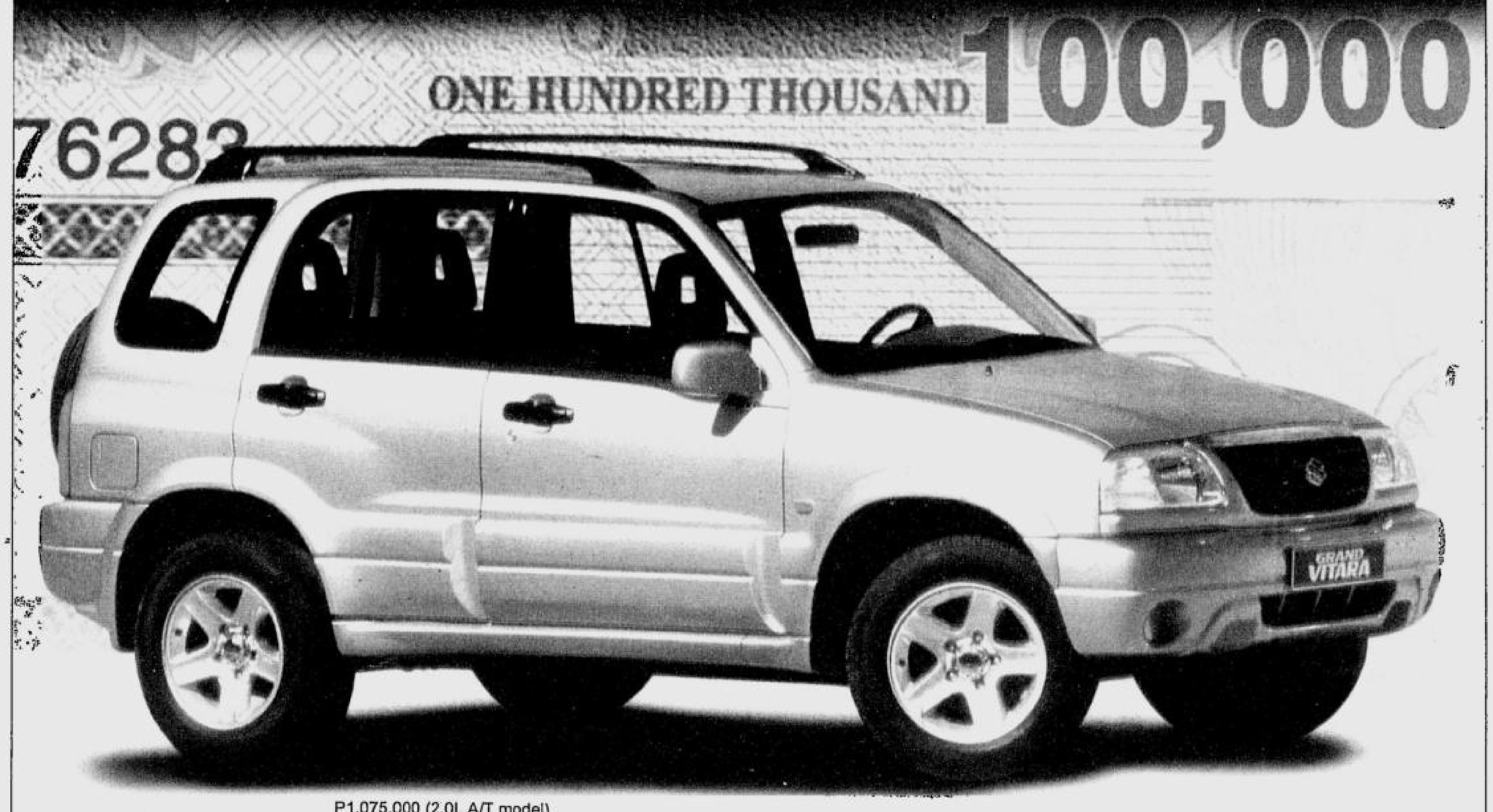
Last year, Rohm, together with its Singaporean partner Apollo Electronics, disclosed a P6.7-billion capital expenditures program to produce microchip transistors and tantalium capacitors on its 2.7-hectare property at the People's Technology Complex in Carmona, Cavite.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) approved last week Rohm Electronics Philippines Inc.'s P500.934-million project to expand its production of microchip resistors and capacitors, large-scale integrated circuits, quad flat packages and test box. The factory has been in operation since 1991 and was granted incentives by the Board of Investments.

The project is expected to generate $315.405 million in annual export earnings and create 150 new jobs. These products would be shipped to Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand and Korea. The project is expected to start operations by June this year.

Rohm is one of the world's biggest semiconductor manufacturers which produces integrated circuits, transistors, diodes, sensors, liquid crystal displays, resistors, print heads, and capacitors for major manufacturers of automobiles, computers, communication devices, and other high-tech components around the world.

Save P100,000 from the Grand Vitara 2.0L.
Now P1,035,000 (2.0L M/T) for a very limited period.



P1,075,000 (2.0L A/T model).

The Grandest Grand VITARA deal ever!

• Big savings also for the following models:
Grand Vitara 2.5L M/T P1,220,000
Grand Vitara 2.5L A/T P1,270,000
Vitara STD 1.6L M/T P 692,000
Vitara STD 1.6L A/T P 735,000
Vitara Plus 1.6L M/T P 732,000
Vitara Plus 1.6L A/T P 775,000

• 0% interest / 30% to 50% DP / 18 mos and other low monthly terms up to 72 mos are also available. (See flyers for details)
• Also comes w/ FREE Fog Lamps, Window Visors, and Muffler Extension for the Grand Vitara 2.0L & 2.5L models.
• Promo Period: May 2 - 31, 2001 ONLY

FULL FRAME 4x4
2WD ⟷ 4WD DRIVE SELECT 4x4
SUZUKI

• For more details, see your favorite Suzuki dealer NOW !
*Specifications shown in photo may vary slightly from actual unit.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0591. Series of 2001

Metro Manila
PILHINO SALES CORP.
Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 634-3491 to 57
PILIPINAS TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES, INC. - LAS PIÑAS
Las Piñas City
Tel. Nos. 871-3679 / 80/ 871-3093
GM AUTOWORLD - Makati
Makati City
Tel. Nos. 843-0217 to 20 / 814-0803 / 814-0838
GM AUTOWORLD - Quezon Avenue
Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 374-1250 to 59 / 382-6001

Luzon
AMIANAN MOTORS
Rosario, La Union
Tel. Nos. (072) 712-8881 to 84
Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 300-8882 to 83
San Fernando
Tel. Nos. (072) 700-8882 to 83
Laoag
Tel. Nos. (077) 781-8882 to 83
CHEERS TRADESTAR, INC.
Santiago City
Tel. Nos. (078) 682-7451 / (078) 682-8143 / (078) 682-8080
GM AUTOWORLD - Pampanga
San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. No. (045) 963-0888
LISAM MOTORS
Naga City
Tel. Nos. (054) 472-3577 / (054) 472-6950

Visayas
AFE MOTOR SALES CORP.
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 321-2498 / (053) 325-5609
AUTOMALL MOTORS SALES
Bacolod City
Tel. Nos. (034) 435-1102 / (034) 435-1308
ILOILO CAR CORP.
Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 320-2248 / (033) 320-2064 / (033) 508-5878
SAIKOH MOTOR SALES, INC.
Mandaue City
Tel. Nos. (032) 346-3602 to 06 / (032) 346-3110 / (032) 344-0902

Mindanao
ANFLO MOTOR CORP.
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 227-26357
ARCEF MARKETING, INC.
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-1492 / (062) 991-1128
MOTORMALL DAVAO CORP.
Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 235-0185 / (082) 234-0390

Urban Bank story: 20 years down the drain

By Raul C. Dancel
(Second of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

TED Borlongan, a man at the top of his game, broke down and was in tears as he informed his directors that things had turned for the worse for them and for the company. That was on April 25 last year. Urban Bank Inc., a company he built with 20 years of his life, would not be opening its doors the following day. He wasn't the only one crying.

Inside a board room on the 37th floor of a posh high-rise at the corner of Buendia and Pasong Tamo streets in Makati, there was an uproar when Borlongan announced that after five weeks of heavy withdrawals that took out more than P3.5 billion worth of deposits, Urban Bank would, for the first time, have to go on a holiday. Upon hearing these words, the people inside the room — men and women who had reached the peak of the corporate ladder — began sobbing. It wasn't just the money. It was the two decades of their lives gone down the drain.

Urban Bank began doing business as Urban Development Bank, a thrift bank, on Sept. 9, 1980. It had two gifted managers at its helm. Borlongan, who was appointed president in 1990, was a brilliant strategist with zero tolerance for mediocrity. Beside him was Arsenio Bartolome III, a marketing whiz with all the right credentials and connections. Together, they shepherded Urban Bank through some of the toughest years in local banking history. Their bank survived one People Power uprising, two major coup d'etats and a two-year currency crisis that crippled much of Asia's banking system. It had, as its clients, high net worth individuals and prestigious names like the Manila Polo Club and the Manila Yacht Club.

Until the time it closed down on April 26 last year, Urban Bank's growth had been steady. It merged with Paramount Development Bank on Sept. 9, 1980, grew into a commercial bank on Aug. 31, 1990 and became a universal bank on May 6, 1994.

So what went wrong? Nothing was fundamentally wrong with the bank. It was, however, bled to death by its investment house.

Junk or not?

A key issue that until now the owners of Urban Bank and government regulators are debating over is Urban Bank's purchase of more than P4.5 billion worth of loans and receivables from Urbancorp Investments Inc.

Bartolome and Borlongan said they had to transfer those loans to save both Urban Bank and its investment house, Urbancorp. Had they allowed Urbancorp to collapse, it would take down with it Urban Bank. The transaction, they insisted, was legal because it was a common practice accepted in the banking industry and the central bank was in on it.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., on the other hand, said Bartolome and Borlongan tried to bail out Urbancorp, which was bleeding from its own poor investment decisions, using deposits placed with Urban Bank without informing the people who owned these funds and their own directors and officers. Worse, the loans that Urban Bank got from Urbancorp were "garbage" receivables. These, according to the BSP and PDIC, were illegal acts that constituted massive fraud and economic sabotage.

From Urbancorp

To begin with, what happened to Urbancorp? Why was it in trouble? Like most investment houses, Urbancorp created money by using other people's money. It bought debt instruments of other companies and sold them in smaller units to the investing public at a price sufficiently high to cover expenses of sale and leave a profit. It offered its investors — the people who bought debts of other companies — returns higher than what they would normally get from banks. As investors, however, its clients were taking risks. Their investments, unlike deposits, were not insured, and although they were promised huge earnings, they were also told to expect the possibility of huge losses.

Urbancorp took a gamble on real estate, and it got burned big time. It probably would have survived had it managed to convince its investors to hang on and ride out the financial storm, but forces beyond its control were working against it. At a time when two-thirds of its debt papers came from real estate companies, there was a slump in the property sector. Property prices were falling, interest rates were rising and a supply glut left hundreds of projects uncompleted. There were also news of other investment houses collapsing like paper walls, notably Westmont Investment Corp., a unit of Westmont Bank, which had P5 billion to P7 billion in unpaid instruments, and the ASB group of companies, which had about P3.5 billion in unpaid instruments that went through BSA Bank.

Naturally, people became jittery and wanted their money closer to their pockets. So they started preterminating their investments. Urbancorp's problem was that it didn't have enough cash to cover these withdrawals, so it turned to its parent, Urban Bank.

NOT seeing eye-to-eye: Former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan (left) and BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

To Urban Bank

Urban Bank was a healthy lender, and, thanks largely to its formidable marketing machinery, it had a better name recall than much larger banks. Back then, the initials "UB" were more commonly associated with Urban Bank than with the better-capitalized Union Bank of the Philippines. The bank itself was heavily exposed to the property sector, and had been stretching its resources thinly with two huge real estate projects: One McKinley, a high-rise residential condominium at the Fort Bonifacio commercial center, and Urban Plaza, a posh office high-rise at the corner of Buendia and Pasong Tamo Sts. On its own, however, the bank still had enough cash to cover unusual patterns of withdrawals and, with a little help from the government, even survive a run.

When it began extending a lifeline to Urbancorp, however, the bank went into a tailspin from which it never recovered.

On April 19, Urban Bank president Ted Borlongan authorized the purchase of P2.8 billion worth of loans and receivables from Urbancorp. On April 24, he again authorized the purchase of P744 million worth of Urbancorp loans and receivables, and another P1 billion the following day.

Overvalued garbage?

The Bangko Sentral and the PDIC said these loans and receivables were highly overvalued and amounted to nothing more than "trash" or "garbage" debt instruments.

Among the loans and receivables that Urban Bank bought from Urbancorp were P520 million worth of debts owed to Urbancorp by Puerto Azul Land Inc. What the BSP and PDIC found wrong with this transaction was that Urban Bank bought these debts at 100 percent of their value and even bought P152 million worth of unpaid interest. Urban Bank bought debts and interest that Puerto Azul Land had not been paying since 1998. Urbancorp, in effect, made a killing at Urban Bank's expense.

Other examples of bad loans that Urban Bank bought from Urbancorp were P277.5 million worth of debts in the name of Marilaque Land Inc., including P63.5 million in interest receivables, and P78 million worth of debts and interest receivables owed to Urbancorp by Xanland Properties Inc.

The BSP and PDIC, in cases they have filed in court, are also accusing Borlongan and Bartolome of keeping these transactions hidden from their own directors.

Lies and distortions

Borlongan dismissed the BSP and PDIC's findings as nothing but lies and distortions of facts.

He said the central bank knew all about the loans and receivables that Urban Bank bought from Urbancorp two months before Urban Bank went on a holiday. A special January-February 2000 examination of Urbancorp and its trust department by BSP examiners, he revealed, classified the loans and receivables bought by Urban Bank from Urbancorp on April 24 and 25, 2000 amounting to over P1.7 billion as either "unclassified" or "specially mentioned." They were, essentially, regarded by the central bank itself as good loans, he said.

"They've always known about these loans, and these loans were rated acceptable. They rated almost of these loans as unclassified or especially mentioned, and only a few of them as substandard. In the charges they filed against me, *baliktad*: almost all the loans are either substandard or loss."

One fact that Borlongan likes to point out is that among the receivables that Urban Bank bought from Urbancorp were P985 million worth of loans extended by Urbancorp to a prime corporate borrower, Metro Pacific Corp. These debts were secured by shares of Bonifacio Land Corp.

"Out of P4.5 billion, almost P1 billion were Metro Pacific, secured through Fort Bonifacio. If you agree with me these are not trash, at least now I just ask you to keep an open mind for me to explain the other loans. Unless you're saying, 'Oh yeah, Metro Pacific is trash.' *Eh di tapos na*. Fine. There's nothing to argue," said Borlongan.

Let it bleed

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said Metro Pacific's loans were not classified as junk, but there were other receivables that Urban Bank acquired from Urbancorp that were indisputably garbage. The Puerto Azul Land loans, for instance.

Buenaventura said the Puerto Azul loans were not in Urban Bank's books when the central bank examined them in February last year. Had these loans been accounted for, they would have been classified as substandard.

"It was not in the books of Urban when we looked at them *kasi nilipat-lipat nga niya* (Borlongan). It was not in the books of Urban Bank because it was with Urban Investments," he said.

A more important issue for the central bank governor, however, was the act itself of Urban Bank of buying highly overvalued loans and receivables to bail out its investment house.

Buenaventura said Urban Bank should have just let Urbancorp bleed from its own wounds, but Borlongan insisted that Urbancorp would have taken down Urban Bank with it. *(To be continued)*

ELEGANCE NEED NOT BE EXPENSIVE
The Highest Quality LAMINATE
FLOORING
Yet...The Lowest PRICE!
SIMPLY BECAUSE OF OUR SHEAR VOLUME! AND OF COURSE TEKTITE'S MOST EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE NATIONWIDE.
LOOKS WOOD! FEELS WOOD! MADE OF WOOD!
Yet... BETTER THAN WOOD!
Lasts longer than Wood! ... Yet half the price of WOOD!
TEKTITE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION
#1205 Tektite East Tower, Ortigas Center, Pasig City • E-mail Address: tektite@info.com.ph
Head Office: 635-5246 to 49 / 631-4385 • Fax: 634-4497/634-4507
Manila Office: 253-6797 / 252-7299 • Fax: 253-6802
Also: Gypsum Boards, Metal Frames, Putty, Cement Boards

WE ARE PLEASED TO INVITE CONST. MANAGERS, SUPERINTENDENTS, SUPERVISORS, PROJ. OWNER & ACADEMICIANS TO JOIN THE FOLLOWING CMDF SEMINARS
CONSTRUCTION
COST MANAGEMET SEMINAR
Topics: Construction Cost Management
Resource Planning
Cost Estimating
Cost Budgeting
Cost Control
Seminar Fee: P2,500.00
Schedule : May 24-25, 2001
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CONTRACT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
Topics: Contract Administration,
Contract Close-Out
Risk Identification
Risk Response Development
Risk Response Control
Seminar Fee: P2,500.00
Schedule: May 17-18, 2001
CMDF is a gov't training agency endorsed by PCA and accredited by the Civil Service Commision, DOLE and PRC for construction firms & professionals aiming for global competitiveness.
For more detailed information, please coordinate with.
Penny Ravelas/Jeffrey Gumasing/Edwin Pastor
Construction Manpower Development Foundation
6/F Prudential Bank Bldg
2182 Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Tel Nos. 815-1161, 759-2312 Telefax No. 815-1162

MEETING IN HAWAII

ADB to guide Asia through US slowdown

THE ASIAN Development Bank will hold its annual meeting in Hawaii this week to help its member nations plot their course through a looming recession in the United States.

Over three days from Wednesday, the bank's managers hope to advance long-term plans to jack up the bank's capital base amid exploding demand for funds by developing member nations, ADB president Tadao Chino told Agence France Presse.

Bank governors would review progress of the ADB's efforts to reduce the region's sprawling poverty, under a new long-term strategy unveiled last year, he added.

Key donors — the United States and European countries, in particular — have long been pushing for more tangible results as tonic for growing donor fatigue.

Capitalized at $45.5 billion, the ADB lent $5.85 billion last year, with 27.2 percent funneled through its soft-loan window intended for the poorest of members that have little access to the global capital markets.

"Hawaii is a good place to discuss poverty issues because it's very close to many Pacific-island countries," many of them among the world's poorest, Chino said.

But the wealthy tropical islands of Hawaii are also a magnet for opponents of capitalism. A coalition of anti-globalization pressure groups has vowed to stage demonstrations against the meeting to protest lending policies they claim lead to the marginalization of the poor.

The ADB meeting is also expected to attract thousands of protesters, stoking fears of mass unrest and prompting the largest law-enforcement operation in Hawaii's history.

Ironically, discussions inside the ADB meeting are likely to share several themes with the protests outside – in particular an increasing disillusionment with globalization and growing support for regional solutions to Asia's problems.

Chino said his bank and the protesters "at the end of the day have the same goal — that of an Asia-Pacific region free of poverty."

He said the bank's new poverty reduction strategy "will be a major issue," as the ADB sought ways to make a difference in the lives of the region's 3.2 billion people, particularly from the bottom segment who make up two-thirds of the world's poor.

The plan would "focus our resources on the things we do best, and to be more efficient in our operations," said Shoji Nishimoto, ADB director for strategy and policy.

After the 1997 Asian crisis, which forced the ADB into the unusual business of making billion-dollar rescue packages for stricken economies of South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand, the bank has been pressing borrowers to keep up the pace of reforms to avoid a second bout of the flu.

In March it applied the screws on Indonesia, one of its largest borrowers, telling its leaders that fresh loans would be linked to success in curbing corruption, among other reforms.

The bank is signing "poverty reduction partnership agreements" with borrowers, which tie the loan spigot to performance targets. Jakarta is to sign up this year after Bangladesh and Mongolia.

Chino said the region's growth pace should slacken to 5 percent this year from a world-leading 7.1-percent clip in 2000, but he expected a swift rebound with nearly six-percent growth next year.

His main worry was about the cooling US economy and slowing demand for electronics, the foundation of some of the countries' phenomenal advances in recent years.

Prospects vary by country, but "so long as they continue their ongoing reforms they will not really derail their growth path," Chino said.

"They will not be going into another crisis despite the sluggish US economy and the downturn of (information technology products) demand," he said.

Chino said the bank should soon complete its operational framework for the next five years, allowing its managers to assess demand for resources to be put forward to the bank governors.

Donors last year topped up the bank's principal soft-loan window, the Asian Development Fund, for $5.65 billion, including $2.91 billion in fresh contributions. *AFP*

Sumitomo assessing plan to put up RP refinery

JAPAN'S Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd. will make a final decision on whether to build a nickel refinery in the Philippines after reviewing the results of a feasibility study, a company spokesperson said in Tokyo yesterday.

Japan's Nihon Keizai Shimbun business daily reported on Saturday that Sumitomo Metal Mining has basically decided to build the refinery in joint venture with a local mining company, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining, at an estimated cost of 10 billion yen ($82.39 million).

Sumitomo Metal Mining will aim to start operations at the refinery in two to three years, the newspaper said.

The nickel project, if launched, will use high-pressure acid leaching technology, which enables cheaper processing of laterite ore. Before the advent of high-pressure acid leaching, it was not economically feasible to extract nickel from laterite ore.

A Sumitomo Metal Mining spokesperson said, however, that the feasibility study the company started last year at Rio Tuba's nickel mine on Palawan Island was still in progress, adding that it would take another few months to finish.

The study had been expected to be completed by the end of March.

Sumitomo Metal Mining announced the launch of the feasibility study in April last year and said that it hoped to produce about 10,000 tons of nickel and 550 tons of cobalt per year over the 20-year span of the project. *Reuters*

Gov't to merge guarantee firms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is pushing for the merger of state agencies granting guarantees to small and medium enterprises (SME) as part of its overall efforts to rationalize financing to companies with less than P100 million in capital.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said he has obtained Malacañang's mandate to merge the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. (SBGFC) and the Government Fund for SME (GFSME) mainly because they have the same clientele and same purpose.

Roxas said the DTI could now pursue a merger of the SME guarantee bodies after the GFSME was transferred from the Office of the Executive Secretary to the DTI, which already has responsibility over SBGFC. Roxas said he hopes to finalize the merger terms in time for SME week in July this year.

By merging the two entities, Roxas said he hopes to realize savings from overhead costs and more focus in reaching their targeted audience.

Roxas said the DTI would also push for the lifting of the ban on government guarantees imposed a few years back in response to government efforts to control its interest payments.

Roxas said the ban has prevented SBGFC and GFSME from undertaking its main function and left a lot of SMEs without financing.

Most banks have closed the taps on lending to SMEs as an aftermath of the 1997 financial meltdown. The few banks willing to lend to SMES are demanding too much collateral cover or guarantee from the government which the SBGFC and GFSME could not fulfill due to the prohibition.

Roxas said these moves were all part of the DTI's overall objective of establishing a financial supermarket for SMEs, a one-stop-shop center for small businessmen for their financing and support services such as feasibility studies.

Smart, Nextel interconnect telecom networks

By Anthony O. Alcantara

SMART Communications Inc. and trunk radio company Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. have fully interconnected their networks after a protracted dispute about interconnection.

In a statement, Nextel yesterday said subscribers of Nextel's digital radio service could now call Smart cellular phone subscribers without difficulty.

Last month the two companies signed a memorandum of agreement for the interconnection but access to each other's networks was limited since the required number of interconnection trunks was not immediately activated.

Other technical considerations also had to be taken into account.

"The present convenience enjoyed by the subscribers of both networks will be further expanded with continuing efforts made by both networks in providing better and more efficient telecommunications service to its subscribers," Nextel said in the statement.

Shares end lower . . .

(From page B1)

ment can maintain peace and order as voters troop to precincts to cast their ballots next Monday, said Yap.

The President's announcement that she was lifting the state of rebellion in Manila early Monday was taken as a sign that the government has regained full control of the country following a siege by supporters of fallen leader Joseph Estrada on the presidential palace on May 1.

However, there remains the threat of more violence in the future from pro-Estrada groups, traders said.

Estrada's desire to be reinstated as president if he is cleared of the crime of economic plunder is further fueling concern over the country's political outlook, they added.

"We expect more thin trading activity ahead," said Yap.

The psychological support level for the index is at 1,400 points, while resistance is at 1,450 points, traders said.

"People are awaiting the results of the election. There has been a lot of election-related violence and that is making people nervous," Vickers Ballas Securities associate director for sales, Enrique Santa Ana, said.

He added that there were some further foreign selling yesterday, as offshore investors remain unnerved about last week's attack on Malacañang and the possibility of further trouble going into the May 14 polling. *AP, Reuters*

Group seeks strong local airline sector

PHILIPPINE tourism will need a strong and healthy local airline industry if it is to achieve its growth targets.

Robert Lim Joseph, president of the Network of Independent Travel Agencies, said yesterday local airlines would play a crucial role in the government's overall tourism program.

Joseph noted that bulk of international flights still land in Metro Manila although Cebu continues to be a secondary destination which is also served by international flights.

Local carriers bear the responsibility of dispersing foreign tourists from the main hubs to the provincial destinations, Joseph said.

"The country's tourism industry has a stake in the welfare of the local airline industry. They fly, we fly," Joseph said.

Joseph said access was still the key to tourism growth. But he added the government needs to be cautious in its plan to liberalize civil aviation "abruptly" and allow foreign carriers to operate additional flights and even serve some domestic routes.

"All this talk about open skies really sounds good on paper. But we need to take stock of the realities in the local industry: Is it really better for us to just stand idly and watch the local airline industry go down the drain in our haste to allow foreign carriers to come in and take over," Joseph said.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of May 8, 2001

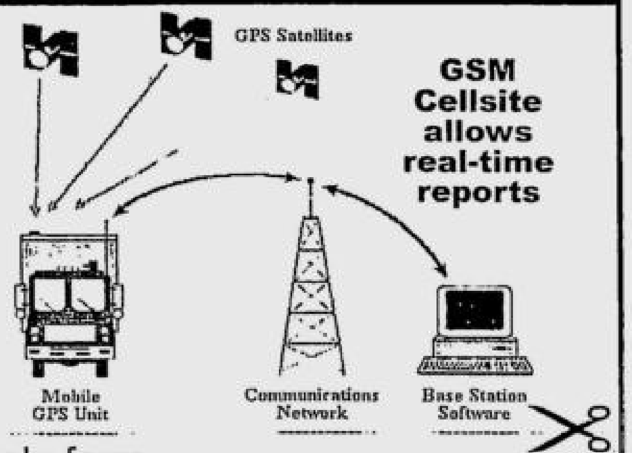
	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.95M/2.0M*	2,000,000/2,150,000*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	820,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	400,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Please call
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	350,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450,000	500,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000*	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	200,000	300,000/420,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	550,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	395,000/450,000*	405,000/500,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C (with lot)*	395,000	400,000/2,000,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000	4,000,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	850,000/950,000*	-
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000	175,000/180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/600,000**	330,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	130,000	150,000/Please call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	235,000
RIVIERA A/B*	250,000	280,000/420,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	650,000	675,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	250,000/500,000*	Please call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	480,000/1.1M*	485,000/1,250,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	875,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	195,000
VALLEY GOLF	330,000	350,000
WACK WACK	10,500,000	10,878,000

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack (low price), Rockwell Condominium and Others
Need Lessors for Playing Rights: Eastridge B, Punta Fuego, Rockwell, Sherwood B
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest and Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands and Orchard Townhouse (Amort. or Rent 10,000), Pacific Plaza (3 bedrooms) and Ponte de Salcedo (3 bedrooms)
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay and Southwoods
Buying: Rockwell studio apartment with share

Pls. Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/27; Globe 0917-5381722 or 0917-6140856

MONITORING VEHICLES INCREASES EFFICIENCY

Repeat orders prove the system works.



For more information call

STARCOMM
Star Communications Holdings Corp.
37 Samat Street, SMH, Brgy. Lourdes,
1114 Quezon City, Philippines
PLDT: (632) 731-9303, 731-9335
Bayantel: (632) 416-0936 to 0938
E-Mail: sales@starcomm.com.ph

Trident Electronics Corporation
Tel.: (632) 374-1722, 374-1733
E-Mail: tricorp@info.com.ph

Inquiries in Cebu, Please call
LE Technology at (032) 231-7280 to 84

Reply form:
Metro Manila: (63-2) 416-0935
(63-2) 373-7842
Cebu: (63-32) 231-7289

☐ Please send me your brochures.
☐ Please send a representative.

Name ______
Company ______
Address ______
Telephone ______
Fax ______

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF MAY 4, 2001

		SELLING	BUYING
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"		1,000,000
2.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		2,000,000
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	850,000	800,000
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	150,000	100,000
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	350,000
6.	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		850,000
7.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		125,000
8.	CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	200,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	490,000	
10.	CLUB FILIPINO	330,000	300,000
11.	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
12.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000	400,000
13	EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"		100,000
14.	FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls Call	Pls Call
15	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	300,000	
16	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550,000	
17.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
18.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000	400,000
19.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	500,000	450,000
20	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND)	15,500,000	
21.	MANILA POLO CLUB		3,600,000
22.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	850,000	
23.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	1,000,000	900,000
24.	MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	180,000	
26.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	
27	MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND)	500,000	400,000
28.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Pls Call	280,000
29.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	Pls Call	400,000
30.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	Pls. Call	600,000
31.	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"		130,000
32	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000	
33	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
34	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	500,000
35	ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls Call
36	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,200,000	2,000,000
37.	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	1,100,000	
39	TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	900,000	
40	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB		175,000
41	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	350,000	
42	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		500,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

JUST S. VIRAY
TRADING MANAGER

LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA / FINAS VIRAY
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 PB#150-856000

Get expert solutions to your baldness problem at SVENSON

Ms. Helen Y. Sia
Svenson Manager

Are old men the only ones who become bald? On the contrary, the rate of hair loss is most active between the ages of 18 to 30 where testosterone levels are high. Recent breakthroughs have produced topical creams and pills for hair loss. However, these do not give the desired results of hair regrowth. Such so-called remedies are also proven to have adverse side effects. If baldness has already occurred, not even these drugs can make your hair grow back again. However, in such cases, Svenson can still help restore hair to your bald head.

What can Svenson recommend for baldness? Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR) is the most advanced non-surgical hair replacement technology ever developed for baldness. It is far superior to other hair replacement methods being used today and will remain unequalled and unsurpassed for a long time to come. It's not only a perfect match to your real hair's color and texture but it also looks, moves, and feels as natural as your own! It is seamless, invisible, and totally convincing as your real hair even to a conscious probing touch. Run your fingers through it and you'll never guess the difference! With CTR, you can go swimming or do vigorous activities that no one can detect it, unlike ill-fitting and fake-looking wigs and toupees. It is such a natural part of you and is as real as the hair you were born with.

Get the ideal solution to your baldness problem from our professional consultants. Come to Svenson now for CTR!

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

MAKATI
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.
817-2260 · 817-2194

QUEZON CITY
Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue
372-6631 · 372-6632

BINONDO
Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.
243-0128 · 244-8913

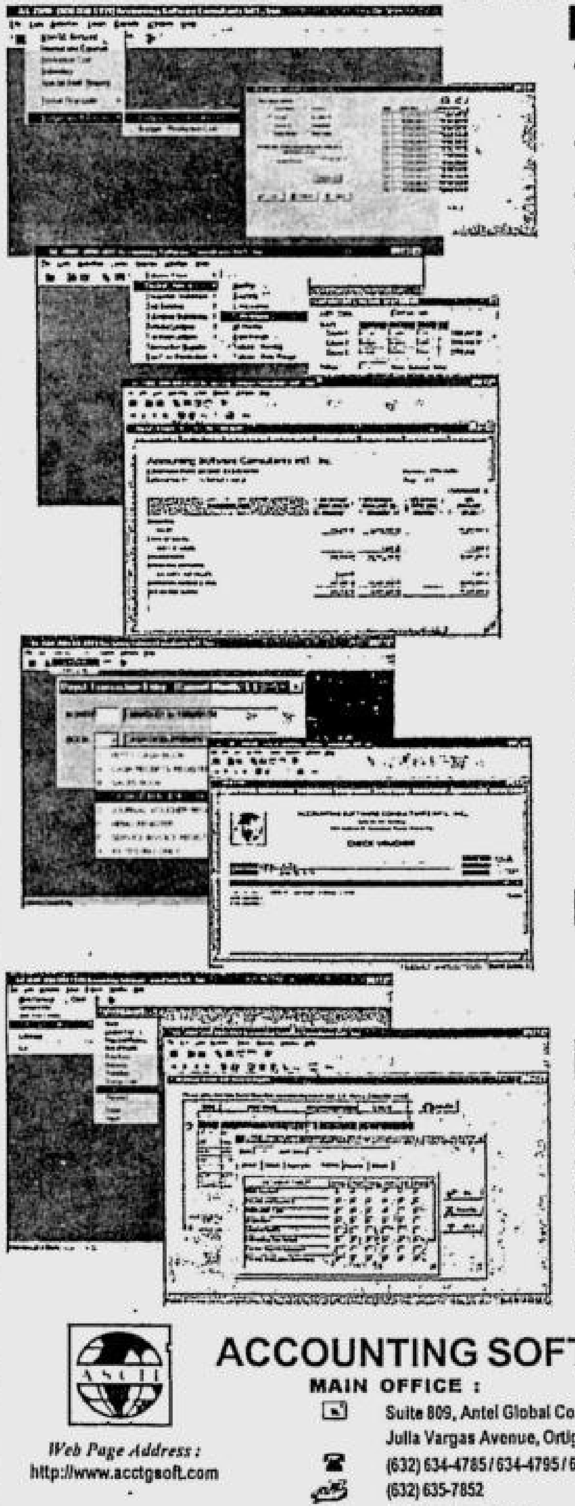
ALABANG
Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.
842-1389 · 842-4181

CEBU
Keppel Centre, Cebu City
032-2340851 · 032-2340853

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

COMPETITION IS THE INCENTIVE TO BE BETTER...

Departmental General Ledger
SQL - Windows



Features

- Allows simultaneous operation of GL Program in several PC terminals such as: transaction data entry, generation of reports, inquiry, master file build-up, and other system's activity for LAN environment.
- Automatic Voucher Writer Module which generate Journal Voucher, Check Voucher and Accounts Payable Voucher.
- Access Security Module which limits access and generates audit trail of user's activities.
- Balance Sheet reports as to monthly, comparative and all months.
- Powerful Income Statement and Cost of Production.
  - Actual vs. Budget vs. Prior Years on a monthly or cumulative basis.
  - Monthly, Quarterly, Date-Range, Comparative or All Months Analysis.
  - With Percentage Analysis.
  - With Tabular Analysis as to Department or Division.
  - Per Department or Consolidated as to Division, Branch or Companywide
- VAT/Expanded Withholding Tax Report. Withholding Tax Form 2307 printing.
- Supports foreign currency conversion during generation of reports.
- Unlimited department (responsibility centers).
- Unlimited subsidiary ledgers for Balance Sheet account and with consolidation.
- User-formatted Balance Sheet (three levels), Income Statement and Cost of Production (two levels).
- Choice of 8 budgeting methods to speed-up preparation.
- Flexible user-defined financial reporting periods which allows 12 or 13 month periods.
- Complete with dropdown tables to ease GL system operation.
- Complete with utilities such as change/consolidate code, recover illegal entries, import utility for consolidation.
- All reports can be saved on most common file formats such as Excel, Lotus 123, HTML, Word, SQL, etc.
- Client-Server
- Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) to commonly used platforms: WindowsNT, Unix, AIX, Linux, Novell, etc.
- Year 2000 compliant.

Reports Generated

Balance Sheet • Income Statement • Cost of Production • Trial Balance • Schedule of Subsidiary Accounts and Consolidation • General and Subsidiary Ledgers • Transaction Registers • Expense and Cost Distribution • Value Added/ Withholding Tax

Also Available

- Dept'l. General Ledger System v.6.3
- Simplified Payroll System v.W6.2
- Simplified Payroll System v.6.3
- Accounts Receivable System v.5.0
- Accounts Payable System v.5.0
- Marketplace Manager System v.6.0-Ent. *(Integrated System of Billing and Sales, AR and Warehousing Module)*
- Inventory Management-Usage v.5.0
- Fixed Asset System v.2.0
- Inventory Management & Control v.5.0 *(Integrated System of Inventory, Receivables and Payables)*
- Marketplace Manager System v.6.0-Prof. *(Integrated System of Sales Invoicing AR and Warehousing Module.)*

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE CONSULTANTS INT'L., INC.

Web Page Address:
http://www.acctgsoft.com

MAIN OFFICE:
Suite 809, Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
☎ (632) 634-4785 / 634-4795 / 634-5449 / 635-7628 / 638-7026
(632) 635-7852
info@acctgsoft.com
Text: (0919) 571-5342

USA BRANCH:
27819 N. Springtree Place
Valencia, CA 91354
☎ (661) 263-1641 / 263-1642
(661) 263-8615
info@acctgsoft.com

Your Partner in Professional Service

I Can't Believe it!
I've secured myself for only P990! a year.
GET A BRAVO CARD NOW!
CALL 752-29-22
BRAVO

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Sensormatic official electronic security of 2002 Games

SENSORMATIC Electronics Corporation (NYSE: SRM) has been named the official electronic security sponsor for the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the 2000, 2002 and 2004 US Olympic Teams.

Through its agreement with the Olympic Properties of the United States (Opus)–the joint marketing venture between the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC)–Sensormatic will provide integrated electronic security systems for the 2002 Games and the US Olympic Training Centers in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Chula Vista, California; and Lake Placid, New York.

Products provided by Sensormatic will include access control systems, video surveillance systems, asset protection systems, remote digital video transmission systems, and asset tagging and tracking systems.

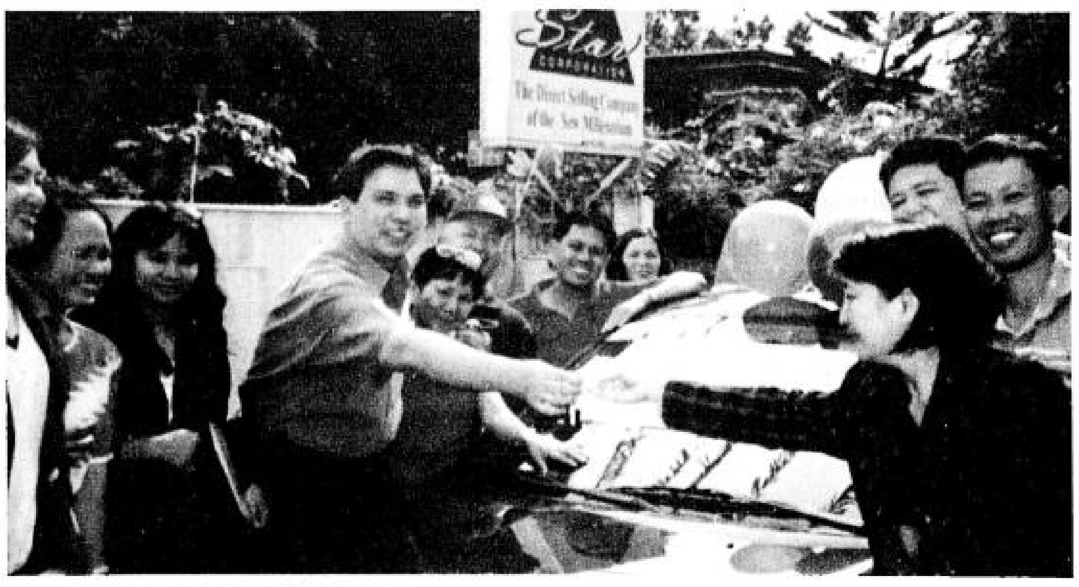
Sensormatic's support of the Olympic Games first began in 1996, when the company served as the first official electronic security sponsor of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. Sensormatic's systems were used to protect high-security areas such as competition venues, the Olympic Village and the Command and Control Center.

The USOC, on behalf of America's athletes who share the Olympic dream, welcomes the continued involvement and support of Sensormatic Electronics Corporation as an official sponsor.

Sensormatic designs, manufactures, sells, services and supports the world's most advanced lines of fully integrated electronic article surveillance (EAS) and security management systems. Sensormatic also leads the security industry in integrated source tagging–a process through which manufacturers of consumer goods apply anti-theft tags at the point of packaging or manufacturing.

Sensormatic security systems protect more than half of the Fortune 500 companies in the world, including companies in the retail, government, education, public and private sectors. Based in Boca Raton, Florida, Sensormatic products are sold and serviced in more than 113 countries worldwide. The company has more than 5,700 employees.

For more information, contact Darryl Seibel, USOC Media and Public Affairs at (719) 578-4529; Caroline Shaw or Frank Zang, SLOC Communications and Media Relations at (801) 212-2002; or Lee Pernice, Sensormatic at (561) 989-7361. Visit the USOC public website (www.usoc.org) and media website (http://usocpressbox.org), and Sensormatic's website (www.sensormatic.com).



CM STAR LANCER WINNER
CM Star recently awarded a brand new Mitsubishi Lancer MX 2001 to its top distributor in the field of direct selling. The company focuses in developing individuals who wish to become business entrepreneurs. Through the distribution of a comprehensive line of CM Star quality products, the company's dealers can earn large and unlimited income through multi-level recruitment and sales. Shown above is Nelson R. Carandang, president and general manager of CM Star, handing the car keys to regional sales executives and depot operators Annabelle and Boy Monato. Also shown is (from left) Eilleen Reyes, network development manager of Northern Luzon with distributors Myrna Gonzales of LDMC Lucena; Merly Salaveria, depot operator of Malolos Bulacan; Rolando Bartido of San Miguel, Tarlac, and his wife; Sonny Ferreras, depot operator of Antipolo, and Eric Domingo, depot operator of Tarlac.

CDO-FOODSPHERE CUP AWARDEE
The Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) cited food processing firm CDO-Foodsphere, Inc. for the third time as the "Most Outstanding Meat Processor" during the 12th Annual Consumers Award held recently at the Manila Hotel. Photo shows (from left) CUP chair bishop Sonia Lim, CDO-Foodsphere corporate planning manager Lawrence S. Simpao, CDO-Foodsphere AVP and national sales manager Ed R. Reataza, CUP president Quirino Marquinez and CUP secretary general Lily Nicolas.

'KABATAAN PARA SA KALIKASAN' WINNERS
Unilever Philippines, manufacturer of popular home and personal care products, sponsored the recently concluded "Kabataan Para sa Kalikasan" Environmental Project Contest in the public schools of Manila's District 5 and 6. The contest enjoined students to submit projects documenting any environmental program which their school has undertaken. The contest is part of the Clean River Zone program of Unilever Philippines, the Rotary Club of Manila, DECS and the City of Manila. Photo shows Jika Mendoza-Dalupan, corporate relations and communications manager of Unilever awarding cash and appliance prizes to the representatives of F. Ma. Guerrero Elementary School.

BITS & Clips

Solanda 25th year

SOLANDA Enterprises, Inc., one of the most respected companies in the agriculture, marine, power and construction industries, celebrates its 25th anniversary on Thursday, May 10. The company is the biggest distributor of small gasoline engines in the country. Its product lines include marine engines, industrial gensets, power tools and construction equipment. Solanda's employees, dealers, foreign suppliers and guests will be treated to a buffet dinner at the Manila Diamond Hotel and Gloria Maris Restaurant, and to a special presentation at the Onstage Theatre titled "Buding 4 Senator" starring Nanette Inventor.

Network management seminar

CISCO Systems Philippines and Hewlett-Packard Philippines will be having a free seminar "The Smart Way to Manage Your Cisco Environment" today, May 8, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the SGV Hall, third floor AIM conference center, Makati City. For inquiries, call Melanie of PSSI at 897-5011.

Aesod telemarketing program

THE AMERICAN Executive Search and Organization Development Company (Aesod) is running a public program on Telemarketing at the Mandarin Oriental today and on May 9. Aesod seminars use the most modern fourth generation materials. For inquiries, call Nouveau Global Services, Inc. at 844-7452. Call Aesod at 892-9595 or visit www.aesod.com.

Esco 2001 slated

THE EFFICIENT Lighting Initiative gathers 500 of the country's leading companies for the first-ever performance contracting and project finance symposium for energy efficiency businesses, the "e$co 2001" (Esco 2001). Slated for Wednesday, May 9 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Esco 2001 starts 8 a.m. and closes 5 p.m. Interested parties may e-mail esco2001@iberpacific.com or call 927-9109 or 927-9112.

P1.8-M GSIS tilt

ARCHITECTS, civil engineers, universities and companies engaged in housing development have a crack at winning up to P1.8 million in this year's nationwide GSIS house design contest. The winning entries will become the standard house designs of the GSIS Individual Real Estate Loan program this June. Contestants are required to submit copies of printed designs of their work on or before May 10. For further details, call the nearest GSIS branch office or call Robert Meneses at 891-6298 or 891-6161 local 4283.

Linux confab

DISCOVER how the IT industry accepts Linux, the fastest growing operating system in the country today, in the "Linux Locomotion: Ride the Revolution!" conference organized by Q Linux Solutions, Inc., in cooperation with IBM and Cyclades Corp. The event is on Thursday, May 10, 1 p.m. at the Rizal A Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. For inquiries, call 894-3592 and look for Rose Sayas or visit www.q-linux.com.

Cancer books online

WWW.eSTORE-EXCHANGE.COM, the Philippines' first Internet Mall and winner of the "Intel E-Commerce Site of the Year 2000," has Chinese cancer expert Professor Wang Zhen Guo's book "The Cancer Terminator" and "Never Ever Give Up! Survival from Cancer" now available online.

According to Manila-based Green and Gold International Exports, the books are now more easily accessible for purchase in the said website.

Wang Zhen Guo is the president of China's Anti-Cancer Association of Jilin Province, the president of the Chang Bai Shan Institute of Medicine, and a medical researcher of China's Ministry of Public Health.

Wang discusses in his books the reason for alternative medicine to provide hope for survival among cancer patients, and how Chinese herbal medicine has proven its efficacy in oncological cases.

Also cited in both books are success stories and survival testimonials from men and women all over the world who have benefited from the healing effects of Chinese herbal medicine.

Wang has received awards worldwide, including recognition from China's State Ministry of Health, China's State Medical Administration, highest honors in the 38th World Eureka Invention Expo, World's Best Individual Invention, and recognition from the Belgian government.

Meanwhile, Green and Gold International Exports, located at room 307 Solmac Building, Dapitan corner Banaue Streets, Quezon City, announced that both books are also now available in Manila. For more information call 415-8714 or 781-0069, or visit www.cancerherbal.com.

Painter wins PBBY illustration tilt

COMPETITION was tough this year, but professional painter Mariano Ching emerged grand prize winner of the 2001 PBBY Illustrator's Prize. Ching, who also bagged the grand prize in 1997, interpreted the 2001 PBBY Salanga Writer's Prize-winning story, "Bakit Matagal and Sundo Ko?," written by Kristine Canon.

Ching finished Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines, and is currently doing volunteer work at the Surrounded by Water art gallery. His work snatched for him a gold medal courtesy of the National Library plus P25,000 in cash from the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Ching will receive the prizes in formal ceremonies during the National Children's Book Day (NCBD) celebration on July 17 at the CCP. The PBBY Illustrator's Prize is an annual nationwide contest open to all professional and aspiring writers, and is sponsored by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY). For more information about the PBBY, you may e-mail the Secretariat at adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph

MAYBANK INAUGURATES RELOCATED BRANCH
Maybank president Lim Hong Tat delivers the welcome address during the inauguration rites of Maybank Philippines' relocated branch at the corner of Herbosa and Sinco Streets in Tondo, an event also attended by key bank officers and branch customers. The relocation caps Maybank's bid to strengthen its presence in this area, and is part of the bank's thrust to identify and relocate to strategic areas convenient to its clientele. Maybank is the first 100-percent-owned foreign commercial bank in the country to have the most extensive reach with its more than 50 branches nationwide. The Tondo branch is among Maybank's 24 branches in Metro Manila.

CPK AWARDED BY AYALA MALLS
The fact that efficient customer service has always been of premier value at California Pizza Kitchen stores has recently been recognized by the coveted Ayala Malls Merchants Rewards. At the awards ceremony held at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila last month, the California Pizza Kitchen Alabang outlet won the special award for customer service excellence in the food category for the Alabang Town Center Mall. The award is given to an Ayala Malls establishment that strictly adheres to the customer service standards of the Ayala Mall. Ayala Malls representative Beth Salvacion gave the Ayala Merchants Rewards plaque to Lady Zabat, operations manager of the CPK Alabang Town Center branch. Present in the in-store awarding were the CPK Alabang chefs and crew together with Global Restaurant Management Group's executives Archie Rodriguez, Manuel Zubiri, Griffith Go with Eric Gutierrez, CPK operations director. California Pizza Kitchen is also located at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

ISO 9002
Ceremonial Awarding
January 2
Filinvest Co

ASIAN HOSPITAL ISO CERTIFIED
Asian Hospital, Inc. (AHI) president Thomas Lee (second from right) accepts the ISO 9002 standards certificate on Quality Hospital Planning conferred to Asian Hospital and Medical Center (AHMC) from Susan Morales (center), lead auditor of Bureau Veritas Quality International, the ISO accrediting body. Set by the American National Standards Institute, the ISO 9002 certification is given to companies that promote the use of US standards and encourage the adoption of these into national standards to meet the needs of the user community. The recognition further boosts AHMC's thrust to promote high-quality standards in all aspects of its operations when it formally opens by the third quarter of the year at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Also in photo is (from left) AHI treasurer Danilo Venida, VP-patient care services Dr. Annabelle Borromeo, and Asian Hospital project CEO Tucson Dunn.

'BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING'
Shown above is Doris Magsaysay Ho, Nieves Confesor, Marina Mahathir and Sonia Ner after a lecture that focused on the leadership roles Asian women of today are taking. Marina Mahathir, daughter of the Malaysian Prime Minister and president of Malaysian AIDS Council, discussed the present role and development of women in Malaysia. Nieves Confesor, associate professor at the Asian Institute of Management and expert-advisor, governing body of the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, shared her views about what it takes for a Filipino woman to achieve a position of leadership in our country. 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling: The Asian Women's Experience,' is a program organized by the Asia Society Philippine Foundation Inc. as part of its women's issues programs. The lecture took place recently at the Filipinas Heritage Library.

FINANCIAL MOUNT FUJI

Scary debt dynamics put Japan PM to test

TOKYO—The remorseless dynamics of debt mean new Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi faces an unprecedented challenge in trying to put Japan's shambolic finances in order.

Japan is well known for having the biggest stock of public debt in the industrial world. But what is even more worrying to David Asher is that it also beats all records for debt service, implying the need for Herculean belt-tightening unless economic growth suddenly takes off again after a decade of stagnation.

"World records were made to be broken and Japan has broken all world records that I can find for national debt, especially if you approach it on a cash flow basis," said Asher, who has memorably described Japan's debt as a financial Mount Fuji waiting to explode.

Asher, director of the American Enterprise Institute's Japan Policy Project, pointed during a recent visit to Tokyo to three troubling ratios:

- the ratio of long-term debt to retained tax revenue, after mandatory transfers from Tokyo to prefectural governments, was 1,548 percent in 2000, twice Britain's peak in 1947.
- the ratio of net financing to tax revenue was 121 percent, handily hurdling the bar of 47 percent raised by Mexico in 1981.
- the ratio of interest payments to retained tax revenue was 33.45 percent, compared with 32.75 percent for Canada in 1993.

"We've got to be worried about this dramatically high ratio of debt service to revenue. There's very little fiscal maneuvering room for the Japanese government today," Asher told a conference on fiscal reform.

On the current trajectory, Asher expects Japan's gross debt as a percentage of GDP would have soared from his estimate of 141 percent last fiscal year to more than 200 percent by the end of fiscal year 2005 and 300 percent by 2011.

Except bond investors will have gone on strike well before then.

"I dont think you're going to get there. The likelihood is that unless you make substantial changes you'll run into a fiscal crisis," he said.

The message from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, though couched more diplomatically, is similar.

Whereas Koizumi said Monday he would not clamp down on the deficit either this year or next because the economy was too weak, the OECD said belt-tightening must start in fiscal year 2002 beginning next April.

"A sustained period of consolidation is required thereafter to prevent the snowballing of government debt," the Paris-based forum said in its semi-annual Economic Outlook last week.

Simply to stabilize the debt at a very high level by 2010, the OECD says a fiscal adjustment—either spending cuts or tax rises—to the tune of 10 percent of GDP will be needed.

Asher said the belt-tightening would have to be even greater. Needless to say, that too would be the biggest fiscal shift by any industrialized country in modern history.

The arithmetic of debt explains why economists want Japan to stop digging itself into an ever-deeper pit.

The higher a country's inflation and nominal GDP rates, the more a government can borrow while keeping debt constant as a percentage of GDP. This is because the real value of existing debt shrinks faster.

But if interest rates exceed nominal GDP growth and if the government runs a primary deficit, debt will increase indefinitely as a proportion of GDP.

Unfortunately, that is Japan's case. Nominal GDP is on course to shrink for the fourth year in a row, while Asher estimates its primary deficit (government spending other than interest payments minus tax revenues) at a whopping 7.35 percent of GDP.

As former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said on his last day in office on April 26: "We are very much aware that we have huge debt. Unless we get a much higher growth rate, it is not going to be easy to redeem those debts."

Not easy, Asher agrees, but not impossible.

He advocates a draconian plan to achieve a fiscal surplus by 2005 that would make the most secure leader in the world blanch let alone Koizumi, the untested head of a fractious, conservative party fearing for its life at Upper House elections in July.

Alongside a moratorium on nonessential public works, Asher recommends rolling maturing debt into deeply discounted zero-coupon bonds and revenue-boosting tax measures.

What makes the task even tougher is that sweeping welfare reforms, including benefit cuts and mean-testing, will also be required because of Japan's soaring social security bill.

Like its debt arithmetic, Japan's demographics mean the government is running out of time to act on both the budget and the social security fronts, Asher says: By 2005, the working population will be shrinking by one percent a year.

"Given the tremendous burden of social security on tax revenue, a burden that is projected to increase dramatically in the next decade, delaying fiscal reform could be a double dagger into the heart of the Japanese economy," he said. *Reuters*

STOP BEING A VICTIM!

Theft. Robbery. Burglary. Pilferage. Material wastage. Truancy in the office or factory. You can prevent all these with the highly reliable yet easily affordable security system that will best suit your needs.

Diamond Smart Scan CCTV System
Ceiling dome camera
Auto Iris CCD camera with interchangeable adjustable focus lens
Concealed camera in smoke detector
PRO®
Time Lapse Recorder
Digital Multiplexer
Matrix/Telemetry Controls

ACCESSORIES:
• CAMERA HOUSING • FIX OR ZOOM LENSES • VIDEO SWITCHERS • VIDEO AMPLIFIERS • PAN / TILT / SCANNER • DIGITAL PROCESSORS
ALSO AVAILABLE:
• ULTRAK High Tech CCTV Equipment • FBII Fire & Burglary Alarm System • MDI Access Control & Building Automation System • RETH Hotel Card Key, Card Access, Electronic Lock System • Automatic Gate System • PERIMETER Protection System • Metal Detection Equipment and other electronic security-related products.
SERVICES:
• SYSTEM DESIGN & CONSULTANCY • INSTALLATION • AFTER SALES SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

yutiam HARDWARE CO. INC
ELECTRONIC SECURITY DIVISION
938 T. Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tels.: 711-8039 • 711-8083 • 711-4809 • 711-4947
Authorized dealer CMW Shell Bulacan Tels.: 044-6511427 / 7662831

Lucent CFO stepping down after only a year

MURRAY HILL, New Jersey—Lucent Technologies Inc. said its chief financial officer, Deborah Hopkins, has stepped down nearly a year after she was hired.

Hopkins, 46, joined the company in April 2000 after 16 months as CFO at The Boeing Co.

In a statement released Sunday, Lucent said she left "to pursue other opportunities."

Hopkins was replaced by Frank D'Amelio, 43, formerly group president of the Murray Hill, New Jersey-based company's Switching Solutions Group.

During her tenure as CFO, Lucent's stock reached an all-time low, the company announced 10,000 job cuts and was plagued by financial losses.

In the first three months of 2001, Lucent reported $3.69 billion in losses, its turnaround efforts hampered by bad loans for Winstar Communications Inc.

Lucent's beleaguered stock price, which recently tumbled to an all-time low of $5.50, closed up 45 cents Friday at $11.15 on the New York Stock Exchange.

On Thursday, two Lucent scientists and a third Chinese man working in the United States were accused in federal court of stealing software and selling a copy of a Lucent product in China.

Lucent, which has denied rumors that it plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, also faces class-action lawsuits by shareholders who claim they lost money last year because of company wrongdoing.

Lucent lost about $80 billion in market value under former chairman and chief executive Richard McGinn, who was fired in October.

Henry Schacht, who was reinstated as Lucent's interim chairman and chief executive after McGinn's departure, has promised that the restructuring program will get the company back on track. *AP*

Energy council warns Asia power market

MELBOURNE—Asian countries considering electricity reform should avoid complex power markets such as flawed models introduced in the United Kingdom and Australia, a World Energy Council report released on Monday warned.

The author of the report on energy market design and creation in the Asia Pacific region, Graham Thomas, said a number of Asian countries, were examining introducing electricity markets.

"What we would say to most countries is think about a simple market which does not cost you very much, because the difference between a complex market and a simple market is a lot and they could use that money," he told Reuters from Sydney.

"It costs a lot of money to change and these developing countries can't afford to make an expensive mistake."

Thomas said the United Kingdom had dumped its initial power market design due to excessive generator market power and introduced a model focused on longer-term contracts. *Reuters*

Australian businesses still in for tough times

CANBERRA, Australia—Australian business conditions continued to slide in the past three months, but there were signs of better times ahead, a national survey said Monday.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's latest National Survey of Business Expectations portrayed an economy still weak, with key areas of activity slowing in February, March and April.

The chamber said its index of economic performance, based on interviews with business managers, fell to 34.9 percent in its latest survey from 46.1 percent three months earlier and 51.5 percent a year ago.

"The index is, in fact, at the lowest level it has reached in the seven-year history of this survey," the ACCI's chief executive, Mark Paterson, said in a statement.

The survey reflects a series of bleak official economic reports this year. In March, the statistics bureau said the economy contracted 0.6 percent in the last three months of 2000.

The chamber's survey said company managers overall reported gloomy sentiment for sales, profits, employment and investment.

Still, managers surveyed were more optimistic about sales, exports, selling prices and employment. *AP*

Businesses must prepare to use wireless technology

SAN JOSE, California—As more and more Web-enabled mobile devices are introduced into the market, businesses must be prepared to integrate them into their own technology networks.

According to a new study by Gartner Inc., which is expected to be released on Monday, there will be almost 800 million wireless data users worldwide by 2004.

These users are expected to access data and information from the Internet remotely through various devices including mobile phones, laptop computers, handheld PCs, e-mail devices and other products that may be introduced in the future.

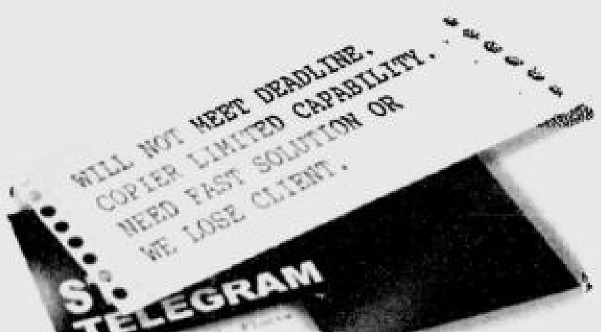
Bob Egan, vice president and research director for Gartner, said businesses must readdress their network security and data access options to accommodate the growing use of these mobile devices by employees.

"(Companies) are going to have to re-engineer their networks in ways that allow people to actually get access to network resources from outside the company walls," Egan told Reuters.

Egan pointed out that companies have typically set up their networks on the assumption that employees will be accessing data only from within the office.

Egan said companies must consider supporting three kinds of wireless technologies: technology that allows employees to send data over national wireless networks, technology that would allow employees wireless Internet access to a local network and technology that would allow employees to transfer information wirelessly between devices. *Reuters*

SHARP
COPIERS
Purely Digital



Other copiers.

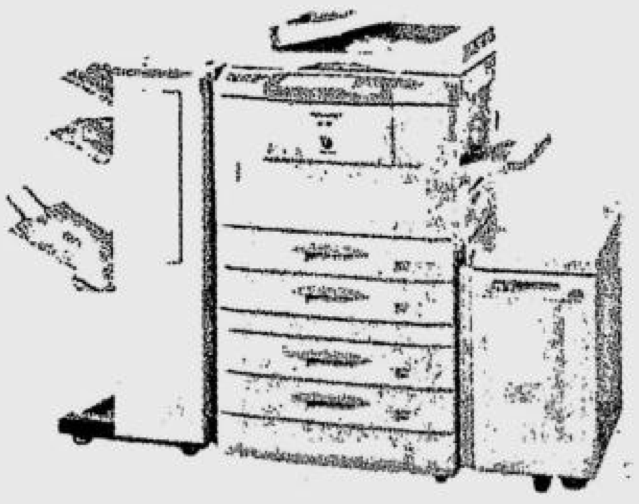
ABC
WER AL SET B4 DEDLINE.
SHARP DIGITAL COPIER
SOLVD OUR DILEMA. XPECT
CNTRACT SIGND 2DAY!

Sharp Digital Copiers

Don't be left behind.

Most companies are now shifting from analog to digital-
it's the latest trend. For Clarity, Creativity, and
Connectivity, think of its long-term benefits . Don't be
left out by old technology.
Think Ahead.
Sharp Copiers, Purely Digital.

Sharp Digital Copiers are networkable.



DATACOM SYSTEMS CORP.
MITSU MACHINE PHILS., INC.
SALES • SERVICE NATIONWIDE

Sharp Copying Machine Center, 65 Sen. G. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tels. 887-45-40; 844-42-42;812-74-51 Fax: 843-4273
E-mail: info@sharpcopier.com.ph Web Site: http://www.sharpcopier.com.ph
CAMANAVA Branch: 215 McArthur Hi-way, Valenzuela City
Tels. 291-7328; 291-7334; 291-7343; Fax: 291-7335

SHARP
Sharp Minds, Sharp Products.

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fitness

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Eating like there's no tomorrow

MANY Filipinos are eating their way to disaster according to the latest study on food consumption in Asia conducted by the marketing and communications firm Ogilvy & Mathers Asia/Pacific.

The report entitled "Eating Disorders" further revealed that Filipinos are not only eating more often than other Asians, they are also frequently consuming fried and fatty food without much thought or consideration for health consequences.

To majority of Filipinos interviewed, healthy eating was far from their mind. "Food has become an antidote to life's troubles in this country where there is so much uncertainty and instability," the researchers pointed out. They added, "so the Filipino indulges, welcomes new food choices and eats like there is no tomorrow to the detriment of his health."

Changing foodscape

The report also disclosed that consumers are not clear on what is good and bad for them. Moreover, they are confused by certain words on product labels such as "fortified" or "nutritious" suggesting more health education campaign. Of those surveyed, 92 percent wished government authorities would do more to educate them.

> A study on food consumption reveals that Filipinos don't know what food is good or bad for them

Ogilvy planners and researchers covered 21 cities in 14 countries to prepare the report. They visited with families in their homes and went to market with housewives to examine in detail Asian food habits and attitudes. The final report, which was presented to the media recently, will provide new perspective for developing strategic tools to market food product brands in Asia.

It is a long and comprehensive report that leaves no stone unturned, so to speak, about the changing foodscape in Asia. For example, the following statistics will be valuable to developers and marketers of food brands in the Asian market:

- 56 percent of Asians believe their diet to be less healthy than it was five years ago
- Only 10 percent of people think that the packaged foods they use capture any sense of "authentic taste"
- 55 percent of women say they cannot cook as well as their mothers
- 41 percent of mothers are very unhappy about using any processed foods and ingredients
- 87 percent of Asian consumers think their governments should do more to educate them on food safety
- 42 percent of cosumers see foreign foods as a bad influence on their own culture
- 55 percent believe there are too many conflicting rules on what they should and shouldn't eat
- 81 percent believe that the "family that eats together stays together" and 33 percent find it difficult to adhere to.

Tita Giron

For more details on food consumption trends in Asia, call Ogilvy at 885-0001.

Are you a fitness junkie?

Part I

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

SOMEONE asked me if overtraining or too much exercise is the same as exercise addiction. It is not. They are two separate conditions. However, they are sort of interrelated. Many exercise addicts are overtrained and some people who do too much exercise do so because they are addicted to exercise.

I use the word "addict" or "addiction" in the same sense as Barbara Brehm of Fitness Management Magazine who defines it as "a reliance on something outside of oneself to cope with life and manage stress." This is not the same as when someone says, tongue-in-cheek, that they can't live without exercising every day because they are "addicted to exercise."

You can't judge whether someone is an exercise addict just because they work out a lot. You have to ask why that person exercises so much and what kind of "hold" does the exercise have over the person's life. For example, if an aerobic instructor teaches five classes a day, does she do it because she needs the money or because she thinks she is fat even if she is thin?

Exercise addiction is just like drug addiction in the sense that the addict experiences cravings, tolerance and withdrawal symptoms. Cravings are a strong, almost uncontrollable urge to exercise in spite of injury, obligations and responsibilities. Tolerance means the person needs greater amounts of exercise to feel the same kind of relief or "high." The individual experiences withdrawal symptoms that are both physiological as well as psychological when exercise is stopped.

What is wrong with exercise addiction? Isn't it better to be addicted to exercise rather than other more destructive addictions like smoking cigarettes or shabu? Brehm writes that exercise addiction poses two major problems: Injury and fatigue due to overtraining and not developing effective coping skills, since exercise addicts run away from, rather than face, their problems.

How to spot exercise addiction

Exercise addiction is not as easily spotted as drug addiction because exercise is a "healthy" activity. Very few people will praise you for snorting cocaine, according to Randi Rotwein, a licensed therapist specializing in eating disorders and exercise abuse, but many will openly admire you for being "healthy and fit."

Rotwein designed the following quiz for Idea, The International Association of Fitness Professionals. If you answer "yes" to six or more of these questions, you are probably a fitness junkie.

- Do you think and talk about exercise more than anything else?
- Do you exercise even when the activity is causing severe pain and physical problems?
- Do you ignore your body's need for rest when you are sick, injured or fatigued?
- Do you exercise despite the weather or other negative environmental factors, such as poor air quality, extremely high temperatures outside, or no air-conditioning inside on a very hot day?
- Do you feel anxious and edgy when you miss a workout or until you get your workout?
- Do you become depressed if you can't exercise for a day or two?

> Since exercise can raise the level of brain chemicals, it acts like an antidepressant drug that promotes a feeling of exhilaration, scientists say

- Have you ever lied about how often and how long you exercise?
- Are you obsessed with being or becoming fat, despite how thin you are?
- Do you find yourself in an "eating, drinking and sleeping" exercise and diet and little else?
- Has exercise ever taken precedent over, or interfered with, other activities and responsibilities, for example, work, social engagements, family and other life responsibilities?
- Do you feel you must exercise excessively to keep your weight under control and/or to allow you to eat more?
- Is your exercise more about attaining a perfect body than reaping the benefits of health and fitness?

An exercise addict will continue to exercise even if they are already injured and in pain. They will even lie to their loved ones, friends, instructors and doctor about their injuries because they are scared they won't be allowed to exercise or will have to cut down on the amount of exercise they do.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Healthy people have a normal sense of "guilt" when they haven't exercised for a few days and this motivates them to get back into the workout groove. Addicts experience an obsessive and exaggerated guilt. For example, they internally kick themselves and call themselves names for missing a workout when they have been doing hours of exercise daily for the last few months.

Exercise addicts may use their workouts to purge themselves of excess calories from overeating. It is a form of bulimia (an eating disorder involving bingeing and vomiting).

It is true that for exercise to be a permanent part of your lifestyle, it should be a priority in your schedule. But when you start missing work or school because of exercise, you have a problem. There are people who give up a high-paying job because it would mean that they can only exercise one hour a day instead of three hours.

According to William Rader, an eating and exercise disorder therapist, exercise addicts use their workouts as a way of running away from their problems. They use exercise as an anesthetic to dull painful emotions. They feel that they are powerless about other issues in their life so controlling their weight and exercise gives them some form of relief.

Exercise addicts are usually scared of getting fat. That's why they exercise so much. But this is counterproductive because when you do too much exercise and also cut down on calories dramatically as many of them do, the body tends to conserve fat and break down muscle. It also makes the body more efficient at storing fat because the body thinks the whole experience is about survival.

Biological vs. psychological

Exercise can be considered a drug because it can change brain chemistry, according to scientists.

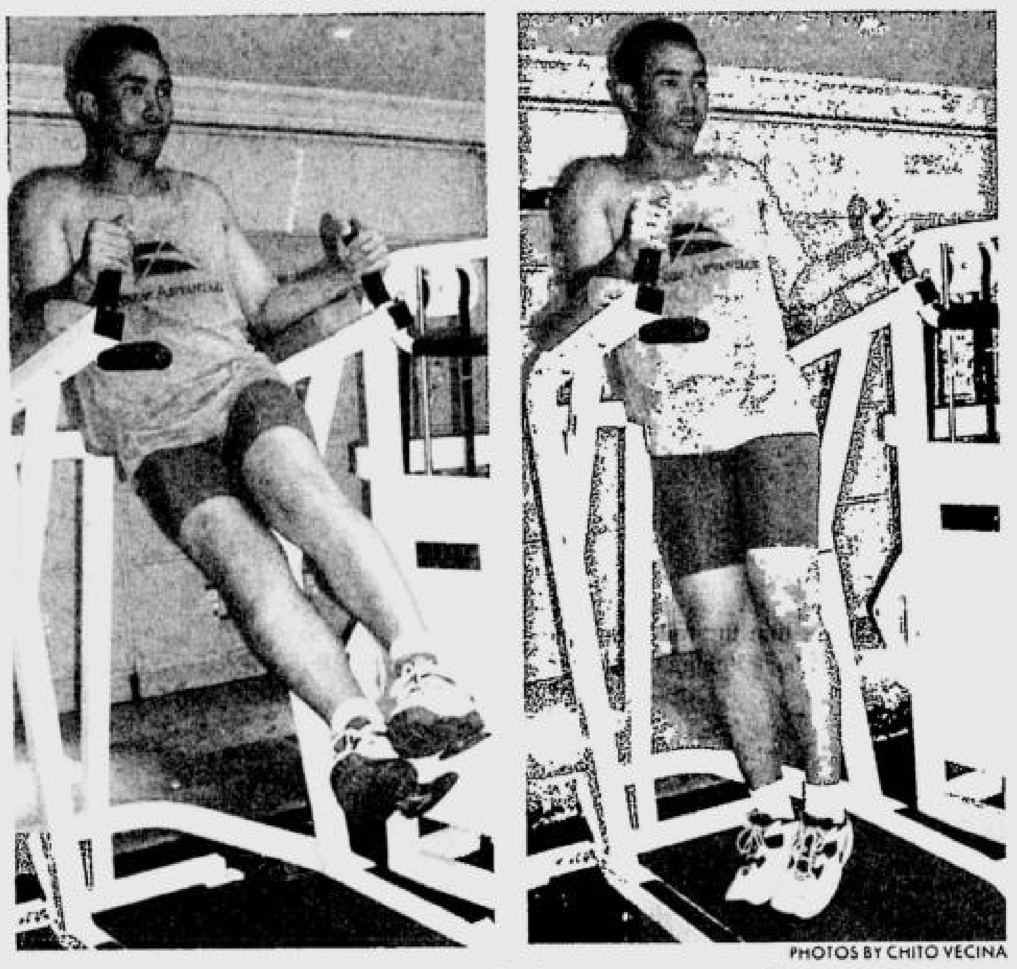
Moderate to intense exercise causes an increase of endorphins, brain hormones that are biochemically similar to opium. Research suggests that these hormones can reduce depression, anxiety and tension. Exercise addicts may also have low levels of serotonin and norepinephrine, neurotransmitters that regulate mood and food intake. Low levels are associated with depression. Since exercise can raise the levels of these brain chemicals, it might act just like an antidepressant drug that promotes a feeling of exhilaration. It is possible that exercise addicts become dependent on their workouts to keep them feeling good and "on top of the world."

How come one person can enjoy the exercise "high" without getting addicted while another becomes obsessed with exercise? Just like not everyone who experiments with cocaine or shabu will become a drug dependent, not everyone who works out will become an exercise addict. Experts think that aside from a genetic tendency, psychological factors may be the difference. It has been noted that exercise addicts like drug abusers have low self-esteem, feelings of insecurity and poor coping skills.

Next week: How to prevent and treat exercise addiction

E-mail the author at fitness@ibm.net, or write to PDI Lifestyle.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

Hanging oblique raises

THIS exercise works the oblique muscles of the abdominal wall and the hip muscles as well.

Equipment:
Gym "high chair."

Exercise technique:
Keep your shoulders square against the back pad of the high chair while you rotate your lower body slightly to one side. Keep your knees bent.

Contract your oblique muscles as you slightly lift your knees.

Performance tip:
Focus on squeezing your oblique muscles first before lifting your knees at a diagonal angle.

Repetitions:
Do 12-15 repetitions on each side. Rest. Do one more set.

Childbirth is still a health risk

A HEALTH risk for a woman that is often taken for granted is childbirth. The Commission on Population (Popcom) says this is "a fact that many people recognize but do not take seriously."

The risk is confounded by the unequal relations between men and women. It is the man, not the woman, who usually decides whether she should bear a child or not. More often, women "cannot have the last word on when to get pregnant and how many children to have."

A woman loses 500 cubic centiliters of blood, vitamins and other nutrients during childbirth. It would take two years for her to recover her strength and stamina.

According to the 1998 National Demographic and Health Survey, the number of maternal deaths is 172 per 100,000 live births. More women die of childbirth-related complications than of typhoid, H-fever, infections, measles, hepatitis.

The survey says maternal deaths represent 14 percent of all deaths among women aged 15-49. And women face a 1:100 chance of dying from maternal causes in their lifetime.

Thus, Popcom executive director Tomas Osias stresses that a two-year birth spacing should be strictly practiced by couples to reduce the risks for both mother and child.

But then, studies have shown that women often find it difficult to delay or to stop having children altogether because of opposition from men. Thus the many unwanted pregnancies. Osias says the situation is made worse by long-held assumptions and beliefs about women's roles that relegate them only to childbearing.

Quality of life

Just as serious is the chain of ill health and poor survival chances the mother passes on to her child. Data show that 50 percent of pregnant women have anemia and 45 percent are undernourished. Some 65 percent of breastfeeding mothers are undernourished. Problems related to the mother's poor health and nutrition are, of course, inherited by the child. Thus, 18 percent of newborns have low birth weight.

In a related development, a report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) says that one out of 10 persons today is over the age of 60 and likely to be a woman. In at least 33 countries, life expectancy for women now exceeds 80 years.

The report, "The State of World Population," explains: "The difference between male and female life expectancy is a result of a combination of biological differences, such as lower susceptibility to heart disease before menopause and cultural influences, such as greater male exposure to occupational hazards."

These are factors that have long been known. The major challenge is adding "quality of life to the extended years."

As the UN report says, while women can look forward to a longer life than men, they are expected to continue suffering from gender discrimination even in their old age.

Burden on women

Other findings of the report:

- Despite their larger numbers, women receive less old-age support from public programs than men, because public pension systems have been designed on the assumption that the latter would be the primary economic providers.
- Widowhood is more prevalent among women because they live longer and usually marry men older than themselves. They are less likely to remarry (unlike men) and often live alone.
- Older women often receive less support from their families because of an underlying assumption that they do not deserve support.
- Women suffer from high rates of disability at older ages because of their lack of healthcare, education and nutrition earlier in life.
- Older women are more likely to be poor than older men as a result of the accumulated impact of lower lifetime earnings, lower pensions, lower social status and weaker access to property and inheritance.
- The burden of care-giving for the elderly falls more heavily on women than men.

These findings show that gender discrimination continues to make life tough for women even until their supposedly golden years. The goal should not be just to improve longevity but to also to raise the quality of life for both man or woman.

Constantino C. Tejero

What earth-bound spirits do

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

REGULAR readers of the column may recall a story I wrote on Aug. 6, 2000 regarding a runaway Pajero in a Quezon City townhouse. The vehicle ran back and forth with a semi-conscious lady driver who never touched the gears. In that column I mentioned a similar case in 1978 about a parked Chevrolet car in Bloomington, Illinois that started on its own, dashed into the main street, ran three times in the parking lot without any driver and with its headlights on. It stopped only after it hit an oncoming truck. In that article, I quoted a report that "Patrolman Edwin O'Farrell finally turned the troublesome headlights off by disconnecting the battery."

You may not believe this, but I just received an e-mail from Patrolman Ed O'Farrell himself correcting a detail in that story. Here's his letter in full.

I am the Patrolman Ed O'Farrell you mentioned in your news story about the runaway car in Bloomington, Illinois in 1978. A point of correction, I did not turn off the headlights by "disconnecting the battery cable"; I merely noted on the report that the vehicle lights were still on as it was towed away, despite the light switch being in the "off" position.

The story was originally picked up on a national publication, Road and Track, I believe.

The Bloomington Illinois Pantagraph also printed a story and no doubt can provide you with a copy.

ED O'FARRELL
Sacramento, CA

In my reply, I told Mr. O'Farrell that I was thrilled to receive his e-mail about that incident which happened so long ago. I did not expect my article to reach him halfway around the globe and much less for him to take the trouble of writing me about it.

I thanked him for the correction but pointed out that I merely quoted that passage from the book written by biologist Dr. Lyall Watson, titled "The Secret Life of Inanimate Objects," published by Destiny Books in 1992.

Mr. O'Farrell's letter to me proves that the reported incident about that driverless runaway car in Bloomington, Illinois in 1978 actually happened.

Since I wrote that piece, I've come across similar stories of vehicles that mysteriously move by themselves.

As Shakespeare said, "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

In my letter to Mr. O'Farrell, I asked him where he read my article. I also took the opportunity to ask him the following questions, which I had been itching to ask somebody since I read about the incident in Dr. Watson's book:

"Did anybody advance any theory of how that 1978 incident with the Chevrolet car happened? What happened to that car? Did the owner sell it or junk it? Is there any other information you can add to the story after the car was towed away? Has the owner ever experienced any paranormal or psychic thing before that incident? Or afterward?"

I told Mr. O'Farrell I hope he didn't mind those many questions because I just couldn't help asking them to find some rational explanation for incidents like this.

To my pleasant surprise, Mr. O'Farrell wrote back immediately and gave some more details of that extraordinary event in Bloomington 23 years ago.

I stumbled on the story and was surprised that it had been picked up.

The vehicle involved was, as I recall, a Volkswagen Jetta. The owner told me it had been doing odd things for a few weeks, the radio turning on and off, the lights coming on even though the switch was off. She had parked it in the parking lot of a beauty salon and couldn't get the lights to turn off, so she simply went inside to get her hair done, figuring the battery wouldn't have time to run down.

The car, as you noted, started up and drove out of the parking lot. The wheels were angled such that the car drove onto Main Street (Highway 51), back into the parking lot and back out onto Main. It completed three laps in this fashion before colliding head-on with a pickup truck coming up the street. And as I noted at the time, we couldn't get the lights to turn off either, so it was towed away. The vehicle was totaled by the crash. I don't recall hearing anything more about the car after that.

I spent 13 years in law enforcement and that was the only time I ever heard of such a thing happening. I only recall that the owner was annoyed with the car as it had started having all these electrical quirks in the week or so before the incident. I never had any further contact with the woman, so can't answer the other question. I assume it was totaled out and sold for scrap. The damage was pretty bad.

The power of the Internet is amazing, isn't it?

ED O'FARRELL

The details the owner gave Mr. O'Farrell that the car "had been doing odd things for a few weeks, the radio turning on and off, the lights coming on even though the switch was off," are typical of the presence of poltergeist (noisy ghost) or earth-bound spirits in a place. Of course, if someone does not believe that spirits can do this, no rational explanation can be advanced for what happened to that car.

I agree with Mr. O'Farrell, the Internet is amazing, and it has also made the whole world shrink to that of a small village.

Send letters to Room 308, Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday at 6-8 p.m.

Promoting feminine health and hygiene

KIMBERLY-CLARK Phils. Inc. (K-CPI) continues its long-term efforts to promote health and hygiene among young females nationwide through its Starting Right Feminine Health and Hygiene Educational Program.

K-CPI started the said program over 12 years ago. The program is the only feminine health and hygiene program officially endorsed by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS).

The Starting Right program aims to educate and increase awareness among grade school students on the importance of proper feminine hygiene on overall health development. The program has two core components:

The first is the training of school health nurses and health science teachers on the fundamentals of feminine hygiene and health through the Starting Right training courses. During the annual refresher courses, topics on the psychological and physiological aspects of feminine health and hygiene as well as personality development are discussed. Various supplementary teaching materials are also distributed to participants. To date, the K-CPI program has trained more than 2,000 teachers and nurses nationwide.

The second component is the education of young Filipinas on the importance of proper feminine health and hygiene. In the National Capital Region (NCR), teachers trained under the refresher courses teach the basics of feminine hygiene to Grades 5 and 6 students. School coordinators are sent by K-CPI to schools in the NCR to supplement teachings on feminine hygiene. Trained school health nurses handle the talks to elementary school children throughout the Philippines. At present, over 10 million students in more than 30,000 schools nationwide have benefited from the program.

Last year, K-CPI expanded the Starting Right program when it launched the Gimik Para sa Klinik incentive program in partnership with the DECS-Health and Nutrition Center. The program aims to improve the health clinic services and facilities of over 400 public schools in Lucena and Cavite. K-CPI provided basic health care kits for each school and offered an incentive program to enable school clinics to acquire new furniture, supplies and equipment.

Less weight, less heart trouble

WHILE weight loss alone cuts the heart disease risks, clinical trials have shown that Xenical-assisted weight loss reduces the risk even more. Through advanced data analysis, researchers were able to determine that it was not just the extra weight loss alone that brought the greater improvement in blood LDL (bad) cholesterol levels. This study is revealed by Dr. John Foreyt of the US National Institutes of Health.

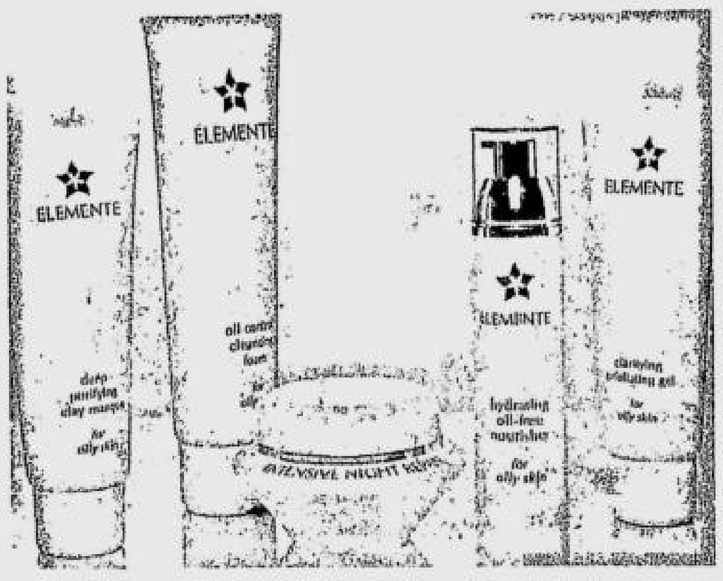
Xenical (Orlistat) is a weight-loss drug called lipase inhibitor that acts by reducing the body's absorption of fat. Clinical trials proved that people who have lost weight with Xenical achieved a significant reduction in blood pressure and LDL cholesterol levels than those on a reduced-calorie diet alone.

"It wasn't just the extra weight loss that brought the greater improvement in blood LDL cholesterol levels but Xenical itself contributed to this improvement," says Foreyt. The research revealed that since Xenical inhibits fat absorption in the gut, it helps mailmen improvements in blood cholesterol levels. After all, one of the main culprits in raising blood cholesterol levels is saturated fat in the diet. Dieting with Xenical basically results into a triple whammy on blood fat; Xenical dieters eat less fat; Xenical absorbs even the less fat they eat and they lose weight, which helps most people lower their blood cholesterol levels.

With more than 30 years of research and 200 clinical studies, Xenical is a prescription drug manufactured by Hoffman-La Roche. It is locally available in all major drugstores.

DAILY NUTRITION PACK
Paquet Nutritif Quotidien
LI-DAN
HEALTH DRINK

SOURCE of nutrients for the body



NATURAL. Ginseng berry, cactus fruit and grape seed extract are antioxidants that make skin stress-resistant.

New skin care line uses novel ingredients

BY MARIA CRISTINA G. SANTOS

"PREVENTION is better than cure." This line, often used in television advertisements of health-related products, is the very same principle that inspired Dr. Jau-Fei Chen, founder of E. Excel Int'l., to examine the significant relationship between nutrition and the immune system, known as nutritional immunology.

E. Excel is a research and manufacturing corporation based in the United States that distributes functional foods and skin-care products. Nutritional immunology studies the importance of plant foods in the proper functioning of the immune system. When working properly, the immune system wards off disease, combats illness and even overcomes the harmful effects of environmental pollutants and toxins. Nutritional immunology aims to prevent sickness through proper nutrition.

Chen, a world-renowned immunologist and multiawarded scientist, believes that, despite newly developed medications, there is no substitute to a healthy immune system nurtured by wholesome, natural plant foods that are cholesterol-free and containing nutrients and cancer-preventing phytochemicals which the body can easily absorb.

E. Excel Int'l., which Chen founded, offers products designed to enhance the immune system's function while providing maximum nutritional benefits. They include daily all-natural health supplements and beverages, powdered fruit drinks, whole-food concentrates and personal care products made from natural ingredients.

The latest E. Excel product line, the Elemente, offers skin care, skin color, body care, oral cleansing, hair care and fragrance products that are fortified with natural ingredients necessary for beautiful, healthy skin—ginseng berry, cactus fruit and grape seed extract.

Extensive research has revealed that a mix of such ingredients play a significant role in "protecting body tissues and skin from damage caused by natural body processes and environmental stress such as chemical pollutants, UV (ultraviolet) radiation and severe climatic conditions, among others." The ingredients are considered to be true antioxidants–elements that help the body get rid of harmful substances—and they make the skin to be more flexible and stress-resistant.

Ginseng berry extract has been found to aid in skin hydration and prevention of moisture loss, thus improving pliability and softness. It helps decrease the appearance of fine lines and increase the skin's smoothness.

The cactus fruit extract increases levels of antioxidants and raises concentrations of thiamin, riboflavin and Vitamins A, D3 and B12 that nourish and replenish the skin. It also promotes cell growth.

Grape seeds are rich in beneficial nutrients, which the body is able to access more easily. The nutrients are more readily absorbed by the body for use by the cells.

E. Excel Int'l. Phils.' publicity supervisor Johanna Rodriguez claimed that these three ingredients were never used in other existing products in the market.

Joey Bernardo, E. Excel's Int'l Phils.' training and events assistant manager, said every one of their products was developed based on research findings in nutritional immunology.

"Our products are naturally processed... [using] the freeze-drying technique. We use no chemicals, additives or preservatives," Bernardo says. The company, whose facilities guarantee high-quality handling and manufacturing of goods, creates products that simply nurture the body, neither adding nor subtracting from what it already has, Bernardo emphasized.

The E. Excel Daily Packs, for instance, "provide a valuable source of pure nutrients to complement every body system, without all the fat and calories common in many of the everyday foods we consume."

E. Excel products are personally researched and formulated by Dr. Chen. The company has been in the Philippines for over six years, using a direct-selling strategy. Aside from its local subsidiary, the E. Excel Int'l. Phils. that now has 13 branches nationwide, E. Excel Int'l. also has offices in Canada, Taiwan, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea and France, in addition to its branches in the United States.

TD Take Charge Doc
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard
Presented by doctors

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services?

Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday

TAKE CHARGE DOC, one of the many ways we encourage you to get the answers and allow you to make the best use of your medical card.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

How does MEDICard select its team of accredited doctors?

MEDICard will first choose a medical coordinator or primary physician in an accredited hospital. The Coordinator will then be responsible for the selection of the members of the medical team of the said hospital. Usually, the member-doctors of the team are fellows or diplomates. A regular review of the performance of the team is conducted through customer feedback.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Eulogio Coz is relatively new in MEDICard's service team. He joined us just two years ago but he is fast becoming in demand with MEDICard's client base. He graduated at UERMMC earning a degree in Medicine. At present, he is a practicing surgeon, having chosen General Surgery as his line of specialty. Dr. Coz is married to Ms. Maureen Coz and had been blessed with 2 children. He is currently based at the Medical City General Hospital. Should you need services of a good surgeon, you can visit him at Rm. 503 of the Medico Bldg. (beside Medical City). Clinic hours T-TH-S 9AM -- 1PM. Or you can visit him at the MEDICard Satellite Clinic in Medical City every Wednesdays 1-5PM.

Dr. Rosemarie V. Gonzales is one MEDICard's well-loved pediatricians. She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and chose to specialize in pediatrics because she is very fond of children and this becomes extremely evident when you see her treating her patients. Her clinic is full of trinkets and toys thus making kids more at home even when they are in a hospital setting. Dr. Rosemarie is married to Mr. Aloysius Gonzales and they have 5 beautiful children. For consultations you can visit her at the MEDICard Head Office. Clinic hours are M-T-TH 1 to 3PM. She is also holding clinic at St Luke's Medical Center every Fridays, 4-6PM.

Dr. Catherine Remolino is one of MEDICard's OB-Gynecologists in Calamba Medical Center in Laguna. She is a graduate of the University of the Philippines and is currently based in Los Banos since she believes that provincial practice is very much fulfilling. Dr. Catherine is married to Dr. Antonio Remolino who is also a physician. When not busy with hospital work, she spends time with Miguel, their only boy. For those who want to avail of her services, you can visit her at Calamba Medical Ctr.. Clinic sched is W-F-S 8AM – 5PM

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. **BE HEARD AND BE READ.** You can write **DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA** at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399. Look for Ms. Joy Mendiola / Ms. Milen Ruiz. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

BVQI
ISO 9002

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter — P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays: 12:00 noon, Day before publication
Sundays: 12:00 noon, every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

SKIN PEEL & WHITENING WARTS PIMPLES SCARS HAIRLOSS Ex SWEAT VD-STD 15 Annapolis, Greenhills Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD CLINIC T8175071 MATRINCO BLDG. 2178 PTAMO MKT 9-2pm DR. GATAN

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

P200 CAD/MANUAL DRAFTING P5T HSE/BLDG PLAN 7282605

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

READY MIX
Cement 646-0942 • 645-2427

COSMETOLOGY

FACIAL SKINCARE
Training/ Workshop
8956031 L2011 or 8971832

HEALTH/FITNESS

BE SLIM 2443937

HEAL Lkmia Frctr 3743579

Slimming Program 5219683

MASSAGE

ASK JAMES M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8521874 100% HDSME

7523149 WIND OFF M/F

European Girl 09179824530

EXOTIC NICE GUYS 4218450

H-H-M-S MALE 7314018

Male #16 Palanan 7320659

Phoenix/M 0917-8931925

REFLEXOLOGY

Scorpion Massg 4372542

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LALUZ 5268216/70

MISCELLANEOUS

European young females for private parties 09179824530

SERVICES Offered Guide & Service for Business to know where to live Residence, Business, Schools and Government for more information Contact: P. Olson info aid P.O. Box 751584 Hickory Hill Station Memphis, TN 38115-9998 USA

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Affordable Maid 9287096

Affordable Maids 872-0265

BEST MAIDS w/NBI 853-3504

Help Agency 5328376/6321947

MAIDS 9124701 • 9124706

MAIDS w/CLEAR 807-5788

MAIDS
Available • 871-2370

Prov'l All Around Maids Driver H'Boy w/NBI 8735062 • 8712372

RELIABLE MAID YAYA 741-8078

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

CHEAP LBAHAY 743-3225

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

•LBahay6392210/6392959•

LIPAT BAHAY 713-0878/716-9177

•LIPAT•731-6833

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MAKATI
- Pasong Tamo Three (3) Lots; 3,700; 7,200; 8,200 sqm. with Low-Rise Concrete Structures
- AP Reyes Ave. One Block 2,176 sqm. Frontage 195 M. near Sta. Ana Hippodrome-Park
- Makati Ave. Lot 1,899 sqm. with Multi-Storey Office Building GFA: 15,000 sqm. near Mandarin
- Bagtican San Antonio Village Corner Lot 401 sqm. with Low Rise
- Nicanor Garcia (Reposo) San Miguel Village Lot 320 sqm. with Residence and 2 Warehouses
- Chino Roces (Pasong Tamo), Vacant Lot 699 sqm. Between Kamagong/ Estrella

QUEZON CITY
- Sta. Cruz, Jose Abad Santos Rear Gen. Segundo
- Lot 3,385 sqm. Heroes Hill Off Quezon Ave.

ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tels. 8162781; 7515472

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

BFRV 2 2M 3BR2TB LA 144 w/ Tel FA90 8747234

LAS PINAS/BACOOR 3BRS 2TB DP 6MO 874-0486/87

MAKATI

Evangelista St. Mktl L311 4Sty w/income • 928-1469

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income Tel 928-1469

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

Malacanang Vill 1.250M Single 2Sty 2BR 8747234

PASIG

Bo Capitolyo Bungalow 3BR 3CG P6M • 671-4421

Lexington Near C5 Nice Vill. P4.5M BNew 671-4421

Lexington Subd - Terms or Hse/Thse 643-5313 Cash

Looking 4 BNew Haus? P4.5M Up 3Brs • 671-4421

Nr Sta Lucia BN 3BR 2GR 4T&B 324m² P7M w/V. LOT 646-0942

Robinson Circle 460m² Nr Ultra Pgr 1481788421

QUEZON CITY

Congressional Ave. QC Comml Lot L471m 928-1469

Filinvest2 760m² Big Haus/ Garden P15.5M 671-4421

•Good Buy! Ayala Heights P14M 5BRs Call 671-4421

Mira Nila QC 354FA 5br 5t&b 3stry 150LA 6.9M 9289714/9279609/4532899

LGV 1000m² 4br attic 25M Panoramic View 412-1825

NEW MLA. 0917-7541545

Rolling Hill New Mla L258 2Sty 4BR 2Car 928-1469

Timog QC 993sqm w/Old House • 928-2497

Xavierville New Duplex 0917-7541545

SAN JUAN

•North Grnhills 960m² cor Only 38M w/pool 671-4421

Buchanan North Grnhills 892sqm Pgr 1481788421

PROVINCIAL

Marilao 572T 939-0299 Ina

Tagaylay L286m² 2sty Bnew 9281469 • 4534877

RIZAL

Ipil St Marikina Hgts 5Bdrms Pgr 1481788421

OTHER AREAS

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

KALOOCAN

Deparo Cal City 5000m² VLot P3500T/m² 928-1469

LAS PINAS

192 m² 5700/m² neg Manuela 4A 8747234

MAKATI

325sqm. Yague, P. Tamo Mkt. 8991531/35 Cora

MANDALUYONG

Wack Wack 1100m² P40T/m² Near Manuela T671-4421

PARANAQUE

Multi-Natl V/L & Hse&THse 643-5313 • 0917-4378409

Theoville lll=V/Lot=Corner 479m² 643-5313 0917-4378409

PASIG

Valle Verde IV 869sqm Pgr 1481788421

QUEZON CITY

Fairview Q.C. LA1322m² Comm'l Lot • 928-1469

Along Mo. Ignacia 1500m² 37T/m² w/Old Hse 671-4421

BAG-BAG, Q.C. Goodwill Phase II 263m² 4900/m² neg MILA 4539707

Calle Industria 10,000sqm Pgr 1481788421

FEU Quezon City Resd'l Lot 144m² P6,500/m² Near Fern Vill. 09196379341 • 883-2228

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Sta. Mesa Hts 0917-7541545

Tandang Sora
755m² • Call Tel.# 634-8160

TIERRA VERDE T. SORA 300/600/900sqm P6,400/M² 435-2933•0917-5295116

Timog cor. Mother Ignacia D.B.O. Call 634-8160

RIZAL

Imleda Ave Cainta 464sqm Comm'l 8150298/6558371

Lot 540m² Felix Ave Dir BuyerTessParaync 7155469

Taytay 10790sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

PROVINCIAL

Belle Reve P6700/sqm Sta. Rosa Laguna 9155177

CHOICE LOTS AT TAGAYTAY CITY FRONTING CANOSSA HOUSE OF SPIRITUALITY SPECIAL PRICE AT P3,500.00 PER SQM FOR FIRST TWO BUYERS CONTACT JAB (046)413-3013 OR 0919-831-4883

Dasmarlæas Cavite 2774m² Good4WHse VLot 928-1469

Farm in Angat Bulacan 18 Has @ 250/m² 8720470

Malinta Bula 7049m² VLot Along Hiway Tel 928-1469

RUSH: Tagaytay Lot 2510sqm overlooking Taal Lk. along Natl Rd beside Golf Club. Contact Yolly Cupat Tel#09198103219 or email REINER @GUOMAI.SH.CN or Fax 008621-62619187 or Alberto Nagrama 6410017

Tagaytay Royale w/Share 447m² Cor Lot 6337601-03

Tagaytay w/View 5802sqm P2,000/sqm • 6337601-03

Tanza Cavite L15333m² Comml Lot 1T/m² 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

96m² P350 Costa Villa nr Malinta Exit Valenzuela 983-1901 Fely

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

Com'l/Resd'l Unit 20G w/Parking Slot Elizabeth Place 62.04m² Call 744-3153 / 532-4802

Experience The New City Fort Boni P8.2M 671-4421

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

Rockwell 2BR 3BR The Hottest In Town 671-4421

MANILA

3BRnrDLSlle Taft 8992148

PASIG

Dona Juana 3BR P3.8M 915-5177 0917-5325440

Emerald Mansion 3BR 6M w/ 1Carpk Call 412-1825

PARC Chateau 2BR FF 1PS P12.5M • 6337601-03

Renaissance Tower RUSH Meralco Ave. Call 634-8160

Tektite East 220sqm 2 Parking Pgr 1481788421

San Miguel Ave 86sqm 1 Parking Pgr 1481788421

QUEZON CITY

•Blue Ridge A Only P6.5M 3BR Attic 2CG 671-4421

CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term rent to own swap lot car 9120647 9124428 4381161

Narra Hts 915-5177 3BR

PANAY 3BR P5M 722-8951

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MRw/TB P5.5M • 928-2497

•Spacious Almost New 250m² 3BR Attic 671-4421

Teachers Vill QC 3BR 3TB 1CG P2 5M • 928-2497

Woodside NMla 915-5177

SAN JUAN

AIC Gold Tower 2BR w/den FA159m² • 928-1469

Francis Court San Juan LA200 Flr269 • 928-2497

Horseshoe Drive 3BR Sn Juan P6.5M 915-5177

MEMORIAL LOT

• 1st Class Near C5• Heritage Park T671-4421

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

LA8160m² P400/m² Over Looking Bat Pier 911-7940

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR strngH2O 4633 Arellano St., Palanan Mkti. P11T 8317310 Alan/Auring

QUEZON CITY

L6 B15 Greg Sting new Cap Estate P10T/Mo Liza 4112323/3715059

HOUSE

MAKATI

SANLO 3BR 5268048/49

PASIG

Kawilihan Vill 1BR 50m² Secured P10T/mo 671-4421

QUEZON CITY

1br furn nr Ktpnan 6T 6819727

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR Furn South Str Plz
844-7524

CTL8 1BR P Fur P10T 9299835

ECOLOGY VILL 5268048/49

Legaspi Village BNew 2BR Semi Furn P70/m² 671-4421

Mkt. Asia Tower 1-2-3BR 751-8342 • 6337601-03

MANDALUYONG

Cityland Shaw Studio Furn 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

PIONEER 1BR • 722-8951

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

CB RICHARD ELLIS
Managed B New Res Units

Essensa East Forbes
Fort Bonifacio, Global City
Luxury 3BR, 290 sqm

Classica Tower
Salcedo Village, Makati
123BR 43-157 sqm
18-85K UF/FF

Burgundy Westbay Tower
V.Cruz-Taft near La Salle
123BR 14-37K
coml/ofc 42-90 sqm

Oxford Suites
P Burgos St., Makati
Std. 1&2BR Furnished

Other properties available:
752-2580, 848-7388,
0917-8381928,
0917-8112635
manila@cbrichardellis.com

PASIG

AIC Condo Ortigas 2BR P30T/mo Call • 671-4421

SAN JUAN

GRNHILLS STU P11T9299835

FOR LEASE

VL 600m² SCT. BORROMEO COR TUAZON ST. QC VL 1200m² Mindanao AVE. NEAR SM North Fairview QC VL 368m² SAN ANTONIO cor Figueroa, Paco, MLA. 2-doors 3-storey comml bldg. at A. BLVD. COR A. LUNA San Juan near Broadway Centrum LA 1000m² w/2 houses RESIDENTIAL & WAREHOUSE (VAN) FA400m² each at Brixton Hill Ext Araneta Ave. QC. CALL 561-1092 Vicky

ROOM & BOARD

Boarder nr La Salle 8992148

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted To Buy Shaw Twr 1Bdrm Pgr 1481788421

BUSINESS RENTAL

P1800/mo Stalls
Malate T-400-6420/23
Sn Pedro Lag. 8086005/07

BNew @ Fort Boni P350/m² At The IT Zone 671-4421

CEBU CITY
Coml Space ideal 4 Fastfood Book & Drug Store Osmena Blvd. Near Univ. of Cebu 235SMGF 370SM 2nd Flr. Call Andy 889-5673

Coml Space 4Rent/Rights 4 Sale Alng Mindnao Ave cor TSora Ave nr Sch Church & best 4 B-saloon, cafe bar, office & others 9396971/ 72

Prime Office Avenida Nr Raon Concrete Bldg. T735-6516

MALATE G/F 5268048/49

PASIG

Ortigas Ctr 100/200/400 Sqm 8150298 CP 0919-4037225

RESORT

Beach Resort w/Improv LA2751m² P3T/m² 911-7940

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

94 Grace 205T 731-3492

98 Besta 215T 731-3492

98 Grace 265T 731-3492

98Pregio 340T 731-3492

99 H100 345T 731-3492

MERCEDES

98 MB100D 395T 731-3492

MB 126 Body Trade-In Ok! See 2 apprcte • 634-8160

MITSUBISHI

96 L300 VV VG Cond. 300T Neg Call 8077711 Rose

Adventure 80T new D/P 7819453

NISSAN

All Less 15T new D/P 7819453

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BUSES/TRUCKS

Japan: ELF Canter M/Dump Carry Porter Bongo T-Ace PAS /Wing/AL-Van P-UP 4WD Chiller 4-6-10W 912-0647

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

H-100/Honda 9207360

FXcheaprates3730584Cathy

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300 VV (Roger) 578-8917

MB100 HiAceL300 9483535

MB 100 Van 641-1859

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

UDrive Carsvans 8006595

Car Vans 4535288/9296250

Car Vans 4535288/9296250

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

OLD MAN EMU
Shock Absorbers
Rats 4x4 Alabang 7725659

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

CUTE SPITZ Puppies 2mos. 722-4219 • 723-8061

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard 23T 25T & 30T New Accept C.Card • 781-9453

Billiard Davao City 2974418

B.Table B'New/Accessories (02)801-4494/802-0566

Imported billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's 8618714 to 16 / 8613123 / 8613125

STRIKEMASTER
Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
ROLEX
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T8342886

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Bus Electrician-w/exp. for Hyundai Buses Tel.8376350

NURSE Male STAY IN 723-0101 RM 321 or 645-7605

OPTOMETRIST/OPTO. TECH Male 5623962

FEMALE

Drugstore Lady SalesClerk w/ Experience stay in Tel No. 749-7832

F Escort 18-23 attractive open minded 1277-05080

Nurse P250/8Hr 141-998692

•OJT• ON THE JOB TRAINING Computer Course Preferred w/ allowance 8175511/8944950

CONTROLLER

Our client is a highly reputable player in the appliances industry. As part of ongoing strategic changes in its corporate and organizational structure, they now look to recruit a high calibre experienced Controller who possesses maturity to implement change.

A CPA, 38 to 40 years old, familiar with US GAAP, with sound business acumen, strong analytical skills, and confidence to communicate at all levels will be the ideal candidate.

If you can demonstrate a strong record of achievement, please forward your resumé to MG Pelayo, cgpelayo@manilaconsulting.com by email or by mail at **14/F JAKA Building 6780 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.**

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO BID AD NO. PD-2001-025

Brokerage Services, delivery, stripping, unloading and stockpiling of 10'x40' High Cube Dry Containers STC: Steel Poles under Indent Order No. 004871-WG from Port of Manila/MICP to various delivery points in NPC Mindanao (Port to Door) and the return of empty containers.

BID OPENING	TIME
May 15, 2001	**2:00 PM**

Only NPC accredited Brokers/Forwarders are invited to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bidding documents available on May 8, 2001 upon payment of P100.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of valid Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). **Last day of Issuance of bidding documents is on May 11, 2001.**

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents—mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call tel. no. 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

Materials Management Department
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI -- May 8. 2001)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Skin Therapist & M.D. w/ Exp. Call 7219227/28; 7235265 Look 4 Naly or Dra. Umali

MALE/FEMALE

Business Counselors and Marketing Trainors College Graduate w/ Pleasing Personality Basic Salary & Incentives Call 687-4311

CARE GIVER T5280722

Direct Hire Ofc Staff Call Mr Ricky 913-4470

Family Driver-SS P9T; Cook/Allaround Maid (4 persons) SS P5T. 2600 Legarda Sampaloc Mla.

Med Tech S.F.Lic 2500.PLuSALW Call 7111967/7126452 Add 2640 Rizal Ave., Sta Cruz

OFC STAFF ! Col grad/lev. call MS. FAITH @ 7492993

Ofc staff 9134470 NOEMS

•Ofc Staff 9134470 LEI•

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Office Staff col grad/lev 18-45yrs M/F w/wout exp Call Jam 6466193 now!!!

Office Staff 913-4470 VIE

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Specialized in USA/ Japan/ Canada & Other Int'l Tourist VISA & Canadian Immigrant/ Student VISA Asst. Call Marikina Main Office 934-2070/ 71 / 72 Pasig Branch 642-2436

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, ALIW COMPLEX, CALVARIO, MEYC. BULACAN. All unredeemed pledges of Nov. 2000 will be auctioned on May 21, 8:30am. *Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.*

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Free Home-Based E-Commerce Business with Free Computer Start at P15T to P25T Only Call 687-4311 0919-5924258 0919-2123230

FULLY FURNISHED & OPRTNAL BILLIARD:BAR.KTV.LIVE BAND EQPTS W/REG. CUSTOMERS FOR SALE PH500K Call 3648554 or 09192754240

Learn & Earn $ Weekly 292-6137/(0917)816-0250

TShirt Sale 4383147

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is Hereby given that the estate of the late Josephine C. Brosoto located at New York Mansion, Cubao QC has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc #164; Page #34; Book #23; Series of 2001 by Notary Public Evaristo B. Urbina for City-of Pasig.
(PDI- Apr. 24, May 1, & 8 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Vanity history

Q. When did makeup originate?

A. Man's obsession with personal grooming has been going on for at least eight thousand years now. Painting, perfuming, and powdering the face and body, and dyeing the hair, began as parts of religious and war rites and are at least as old as written history. Archeologists have unearthed palettes for grinding and mixing face powder and eye paint dating to 6000 B.C. In ancient Egypt, beauty shops and perfume factories were flourishing by 4000 B.C., and the art of makeup was already highly skilled and widely practiced. The favorite color for eyeshade then was green, the preferred lipstick blue-black, and the acceptable rouge red. And in those bare-breasted times, a woman accented veins on her bosom in blue and tipped her nipples gold.

For the Record. Perfume was first used not to attract a member of the opposite sex, but to scent the dead and mask the stench of decaying human flesh. Later it became a fixture at ancient sacred shrines, where it was the concern of priests, not cosmeticians. It survives today in church services in the form of incense, its other original function.

Ooops! Contrary to what some people believe, birthmarks are not the result of a fright experienced by the mother while pregnant. Shocks do not cause birthmarks nor do they leave any physical traces on the fetus. Generally, a birthmark is a malformation of a blood vessel.

WORD WATCH

Rhytiphobia (ri ti foh bi uh) : fear of getting wrinkles.

PDI -- May 8, 2001

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
₱230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Jesus said "...those who hear My words and believe in Him who sent Me has eternal life. They will not be judged but have already passed from death to life." JOHN 5:24

Our Beloved "Daddy"

CESAR ARANDIA CATIBOG

went home to be with the Lord on May 6, 2001
at the age of 58.

His wife **Victoria Medrana Catibog**; children **Archie** and **Elen**, **Bowie** and **Vicky**, **Chuck** and **Alona**, **Diane**, **Elsie**, **Filip**; and grandchildren **Yong**, **Chona** and **Carla** thank everyone who have prayed and cared for him and his family.

His remains lie in state at **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine**, J. Rodriguez Street (formerly Broadway Street), New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 9, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

NOTICE OF INTERMENT

MARGARETTE "Margie" GONZALES y MENDOZA

will be interred on Wednesday, May 9, 2001 at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the Santuario San Antonio, Forbes Park.

"For God
so loved
the world,
that He gave
His only
begotten Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
shall not perish
but have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

In Loving Memory
on the 7th Death Anniversary of

ISAIAS P. DIMAYA

Who joined his Creator on May 8, 1994

His family requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember him always in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory at the following churches:

Mt. Carmel Church Laoag City	May 8	6:30 a.m.
Lourdes Church Quezon City	May 8	6:30 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish Church 7211 West Talcott Avenue Chicago, Illinois, 60621	May 8	6:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Scott Road, Burbank, California	May 8	6:45 a.m.

JAIME S. MEJIA, SR.

Former Commissioner of the Oil Industry Commission and the Board of Energy (now Energy Regulatory Board) joined our Creator on May 5, 2001.

The ERB officials and staff request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

He lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Interment is tentatively set on Saturday morning May 12, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

TEODORA SANTIAGO COLLANTES

Beloved wife, mother and grandmother

Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 29, 2001 at the age of 79, in Oceanside, California, U.S.A.

Her loving husband Ricardo Jr.; children and in-laws Nini and Noordin Jumalon, Ric and Gina Collantes, Micai and Raymund Calleja, Guada and Peter Confesor; grandchildren Yasmina, Yohani Jumalon, Camille, Christine, Colleen (†) Collantes, Carina Calleja, Jorie and Jerica Confesor; her brother, sisters, in-laws, relatives and dear friends mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

A Requiem Mass will be held today, May 8, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. at the Claret Church, Mahinhin Street, U.P. Village. Interment will follow at St. Michael's Ossuarium, Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Daily Mirror Street, West Triangle, Quezon City. The 40th day prayers will be held at their residence.

Our Dearly Beloved

MILAGROS ALDAY CRUZ

Peacefully joined her Creator
on May 5, 2001.

Her loving husband **Herminio**; children **Robert James**, **Ronald Albert** and **Maria Luisa Herrera**, **Jaime Carlos** and **Joel Edgardo**; grandchildren **Heleina Marie**, **Paul Jason**, **Owen Albert** and **Lucas Francis**; sister **Virginia**; and brother **Jose R. Moreno**, thank the Lord for having blessed us with her caring life.

Her remains lie in state at Malate Catholic Church, Remedios Street, Manila.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 9, 2001 after the 9:00 AM Holy Mass in Malate Catholic Church at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

LINO R. OLANO

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 6, 2001
at the age of 72.

His loving wife **ESTER**; sons and daughters-in-law **BUTCH** and **DAISY**, **RAY** and **DIDETTE**; grandchildren **SARAH**, **DANA**, **CHESKA**, **TRICIA**, **RENZO** and **RINA**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City. Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, May 10, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., and followed by cremation services at 12:00 noon.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST
Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch
A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1258

DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705, 781-3688; 413-9400, 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512, (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City
Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133
Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tels. 646-1725-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City
Tels. 641-7909, 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City;
Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City;
Tels. 749-3806 to 11
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel. 895-1011 to 19
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209, 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960, 515-6529, (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St. Mandalagan, Bacolod City Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-1204
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tels. 852-8728, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286 / 87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-4836

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Luzon**

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na sulit pa!

[illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Visayas**

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER bay! Sayon na sulit pa!

Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
Fax (033) 509-0190
Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
R. B. Printing
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. No. (036) 262-4155/268-5200
Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
Komiks Magazines and Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building, Fuentes Drive
Roxas City
Tel. No. (036) 621-5586/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
c/o In-hand Negros Inc.
C.L. Montelibano Drive
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
(034) 433-3628/712-7021
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escano Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Mag and Gen. Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. No. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. No. (035) 225-4320
Iloilo
Eddie-Mar News and Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. (033) 337-3120

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Mindanao**

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. Sirea ya, sulit pa!

Butuan City
Mr. Rolando Busa
R.C. Busa Trading, 490 G. Flores Avenue,
Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085)225-3247/225-3169
Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (08822) 722-530
Grandstar News and Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax: (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News and Magazine Agency
51 Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City
Tel. (064) 421-3264
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Duterte Street, Davao City
(fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel. No. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/221-3424/226-2931

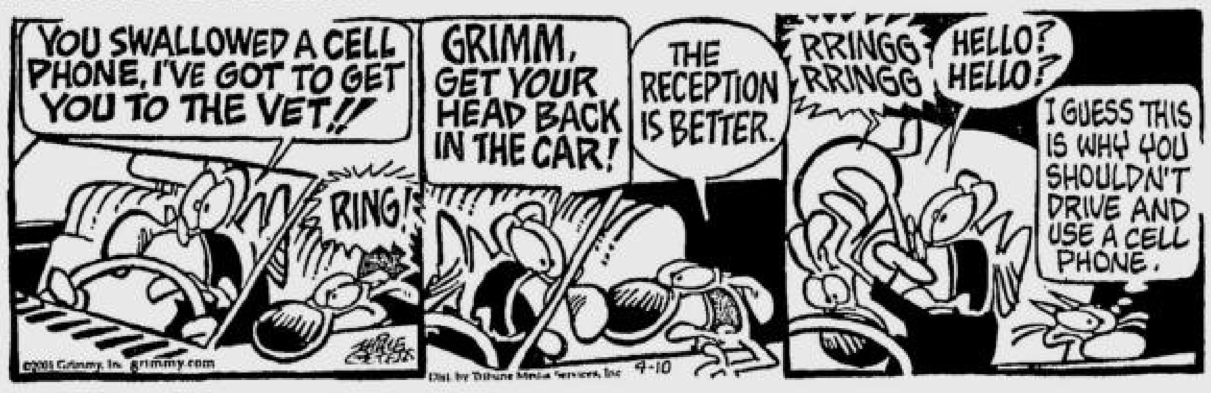
Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-3927/227-4410
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083)552-3352
Telefax No. (083) 301-8731
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. No. (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store, 86-88 Sevilla Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-1438
Mr. Ruben Bautista
#71 C. Atilano Street, Zamboanga
Tel. Nos.: (062) 991-2865/ (062) 993-2826

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

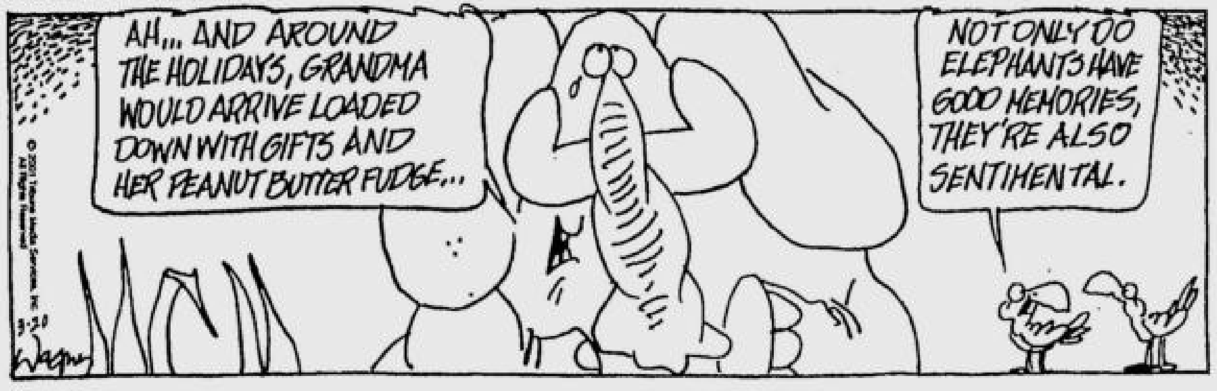
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


YOU SWALLOWED A CELL PHONE, I'VE GOT TO GET YOU TO THE VET!!
RING!
GRIMM, GET YOUR HEAD BACK IN THE CAR!
THE RECEPTION IS BETTER.
RRINGG RRINGG
HELLO? HELLO?
I GUESS THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T DRIVE AND USE A CELL PHONE.
©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc 4-10

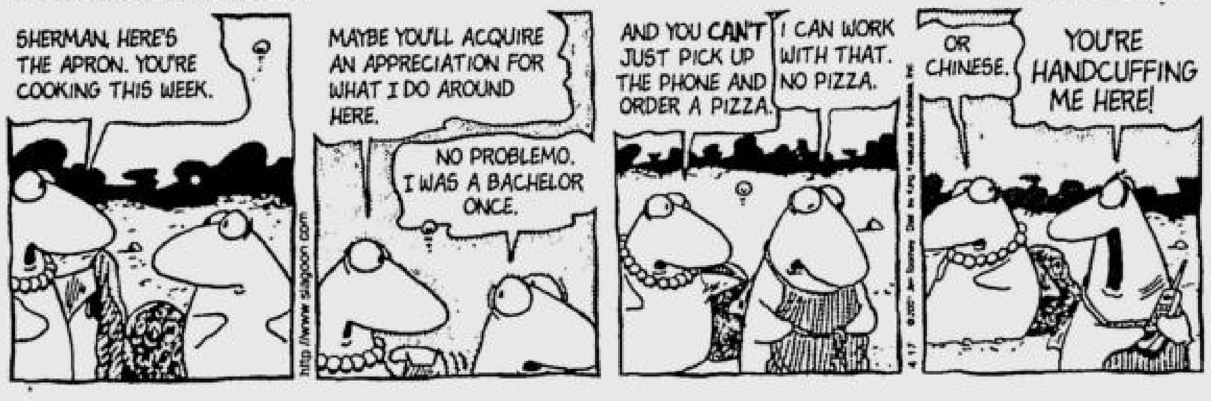
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


AH... AND AROUND THE HOLIDAYS, GRANDMA WOULD ARRIVE LOADED DOWN WITH GIFTS AND HER PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE...
NOT ONLY DO ELEPHANTS HAVE GOOD MEMORIES, THEY'RE ALSO SENTIMENTAL.
Wagner

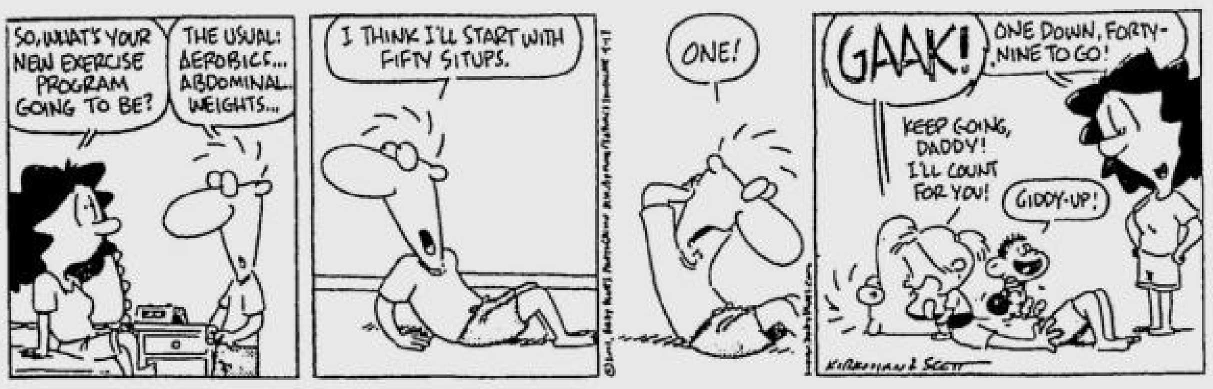
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, HERE'S THE APRON. YOU'RE COOKING THIS WEEK.
MAYBE YOU'LL ACQUIRE AN APPRECIATION FOR WHAT I DO AROUND HERE.
NO PROBLEMO. I WAS A BACHELOR ONCE.
AND YOU CAN'T JUST PICK UP THE PHONE AND ORDER A PIZZA.
I CAN WORK WITH THAT. NO PIZZA.
OR CHINESE.
YOU'RE HANDCUFFING ME HERE!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO, WHAT'S YOUR NEW EXERCISE PROGRAM GOING TO BE?
THE USUAL: AEROBICS... ABDOMINAL... WEIGHTS...
I THINK I'LL START WITH FIFTY SITUPS.
ONE!
GAAK!
ONE DOWN, FORTY-NINE TO GO!
KEEP GOING, DADDY! I'LL COUNT FOR YOU!
GIDDY-UP!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melissa Gilbert, David Attenborough, David Keith, Janet McTeer, Enrique Iglesias, Jane Roberts

Happy Birthday: Trust your instincts and go after your goals. You will interact brilliantly with your peers. Your hard work and dedication will help you move in a positive and lucrative direction. The more you put yourself on the line, the better. It's what you fail to do that will hold you back. Your numbers: 8, 14, 17, 22, 29, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let financial limitations stand in the way of having fun with your family. You can create an entertaining atmosphere at home. Your loved ones will appreciate your talents.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be emotional about your personal life. Don't let your partner push you around or take you for granted. Better make changes before it's too late. It's time to meet a new mate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get down to business. You will prosper if you are willing to put forth an effort. You will have a problem if you fall in love with someone at work. Be discreet, or you'll damage your reputation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to get out and do things with friends. Take time to plan your personal strategy for self-improvement. A good diet coupled with a fitness routine will make you feel and look better.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems with roommates will be unpleasant. You may have to lay down the law and insist that they all pitch in and help. Expect your mate to be resistant. If you care, don't push your luck.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Help find solutions to other people's problems. Use your past experience to help them see their situation more clearly. A lasting friendship will result.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be wasting your time if you try to get too much done. Focus on the important issues and let someone else worry about the rest. Your home and family must come first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You're overzealous, and intense feelings may lead you into a perilous situation. Be careful not to pick fights with someone you live with, or you may get more than you bargained for.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Concentrate on your home and on your loved ones. Someone may need your help. Look for ways to make things better for all concerned. You can make prosperous property deals today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will meet new partners or friends if you become involved in community services. Your varied interests will put you in a leadership position. You will be admired for your suggestions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will experience friction with colleagues if you are vocal about your beliefs. Try not to ruffle feathers. It is better to do your own thing and let others fend for themselves.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do some research that will help you produce better work. Look into courses that offer creative computer skills. The more you know, the further you'll advance.

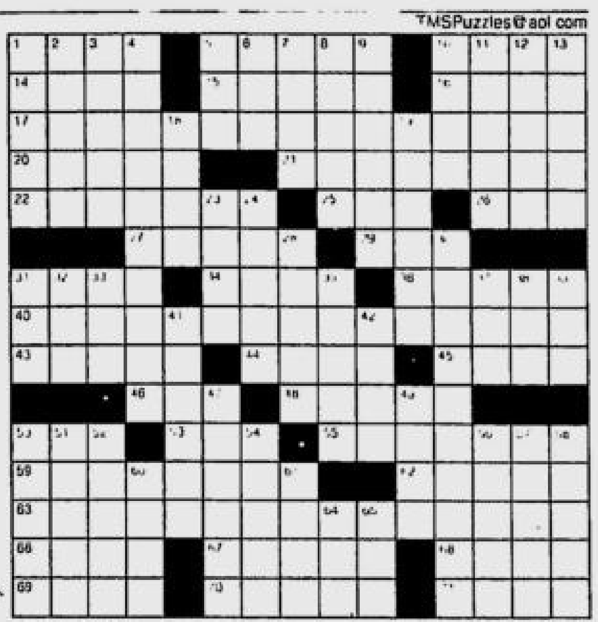
Birthday Baby: You may like all the comforts, but when it comes right down to it, you are a born wanderer. You have great vision and clarity concerning what you want to do and what's best for you. You are bold and beautiful.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Kubrick film, "Eyes Wide __"
5 Anwar of Egypt
10 Aid a criminal
14 Singer Braxton
15 Field of action
16 Anna Sten movie
17 Sex appeal
20 Kind of palm
21 Second place
22 Methods
25 Matched outfit
26 __ Plaines, IL
27 Leafstalk angles
29 Waste cloth
31 Part of U.A.R.
34 Most born in August
36 Bent out of shape
40 Impressive agility
43 Tribal emblem
44 Numbers game
45 Pound sound
46 Tanning lotion abbr.
48 Novelist Lofts
50 Dam-building grp.
53 Horace work, "__ Poetica"
55 Distant
59 Marine mar
62 Actor Victor
63 Inherited traits
66 "The African Queen" screenwriter
67 Fertile loam
68 Have the moxie
69 Distinct region
70 Underhanded person
71 Stone and Stallone

DOWN
1 Wild guesses
2 Pooh's favorite
3 Modular elements
4 Amtrak schedules
5 Maglie of baseball
6 Appendage
7 "__ Prudence," Beatles song
8 Novelist Wilson
9 Leather worker
10 Penny __
11 Bil or Zoe
12 Follow logically
13 Packs down
18 English of the NBA
19 Bring into play
23 Dairy product
24 Smooth and silky
28 Philosopher Kierkegaard
30 Fast canines
31 Take measures
32 "The Serpent and the Rope" novelist Raja
33 Crowd fig.
35 Man of La Mancha
37 Chopping tool
38 Part of GTE
39 Psychic power
41 Antelope with curved horns
42 Links shout
47 Airplane meals and movies
49 Both: pref.
50 Yellow sapphire
51 Zodiac sign
52 Little green man, e.g.
54 Descendant
56 Outspoken
57 Way in
58 Prescribed amounts
60 Hook's mate
61 Leg joint
64 987-65-4321 grp.
65 Tongue-clucking sound



By Patrick McConville
Manassas Park, VA

3/22/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

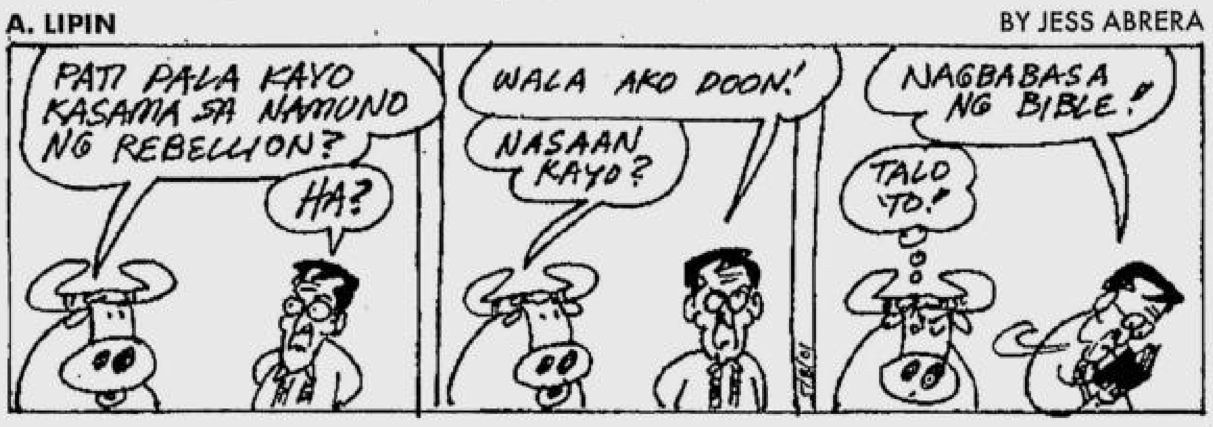
R	A	C	E		E	M	M	A		M	A	N	S	E
O	M	A	R		L	O	O	M		A	L	E	U	T
D	O	R	A	V	I	L	L	E		L	O	W	E	R
E	S	E		I	D	L	E	H		A	N	O	D	E
			L	E	E	S		I	C	I	E	R		
B	A	K	E	R	S		A	C	E	S		I	A	B
A	L	A	N	S		S	T	A	L	E		E	L	O
M	O	N	A		F	A	I	N	T		P	A	I	N
B	U	S		S	O	I	L	S		S	I	N	C	E
I	D	A		H	U	N	T		R	I	N	S	E	D
		S	T	I	L	T		G	E	R	E			
N	A	C	R	E		P	E	A	C	E		L	E	O
A	R	I	E	L		A	L	L	E	N	T	O	W	N
D	A	T	E	D		U	L	A	N		A	L	E	E
A	B	Y	S	S		L	A	S	T		M	A	S	S

(C)2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved

3/22/01

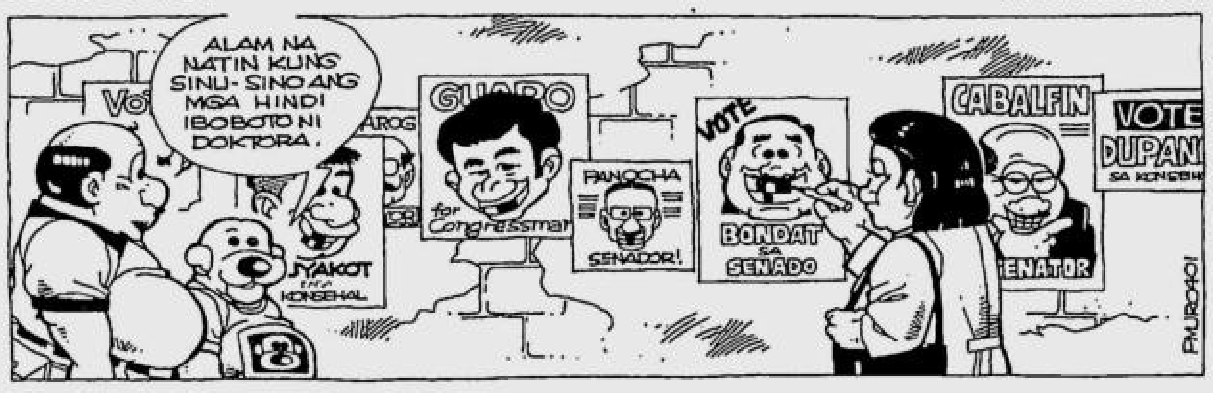
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PATI PALA KAYO KASAMA SA NAMUNO NG REBELLION?
HA?
WALA AKO DOON!
NASAAN KAYO?
NAGBABASA NG BIBLE!
TALO 'TO!

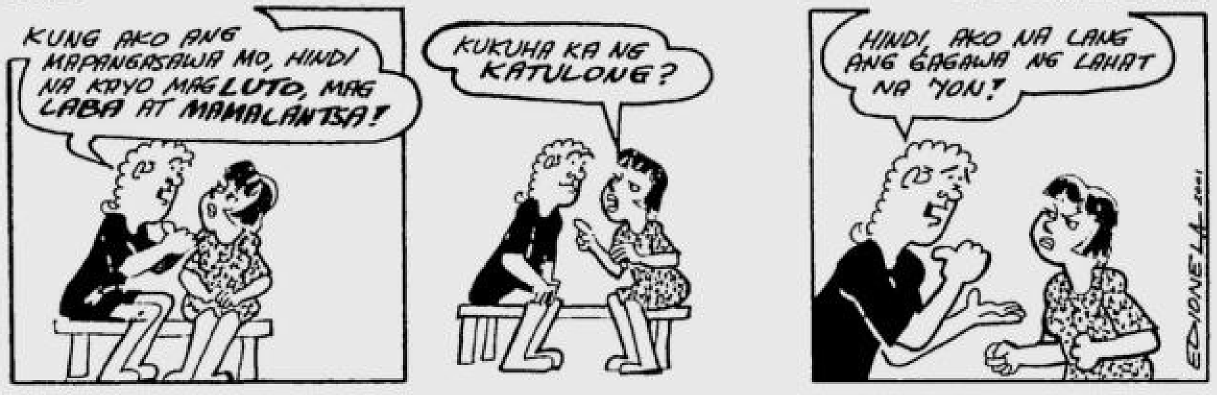
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM NA NATIN KUNG SINU-SINO ANG MGA HINDI IBOBOTO NI DOKTORA.
VOTE
GUARO for Congressman
PANOCHA SENADOR!
BONDAT SA SENADO
CABALFIN SENATOR
VOTE DUPANG SA KONSEHO
JYAKOT KONSEHAL
PMJR0401

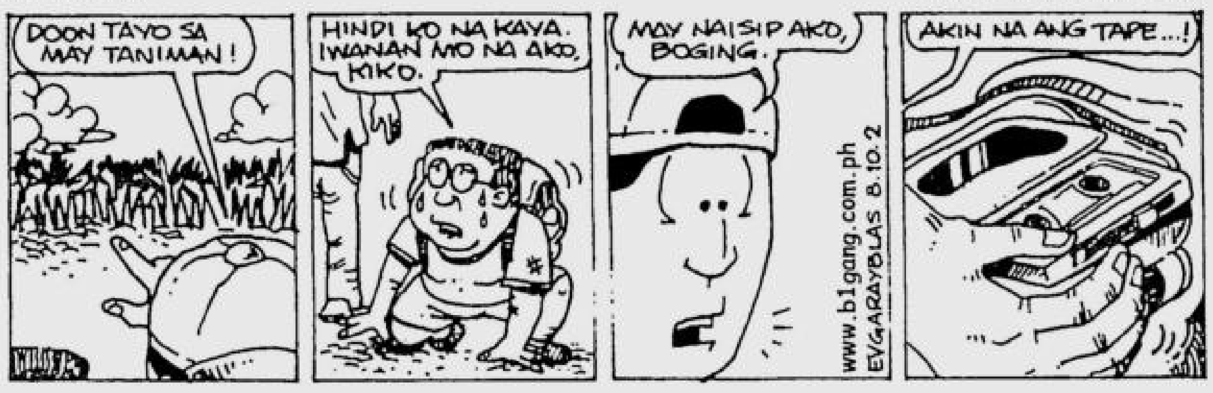
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KUNG AKO ANG MAPANGASAWA MO, HINDI NA KAYO MAGLUTO, MAG LABA AT MAMALANTSA!
KUKUHA KA NG KATULONG?
HINDI, AKO NA LANG ANG GAGAWA NG LAHAT NA 'YON!
EDIONELA 2001

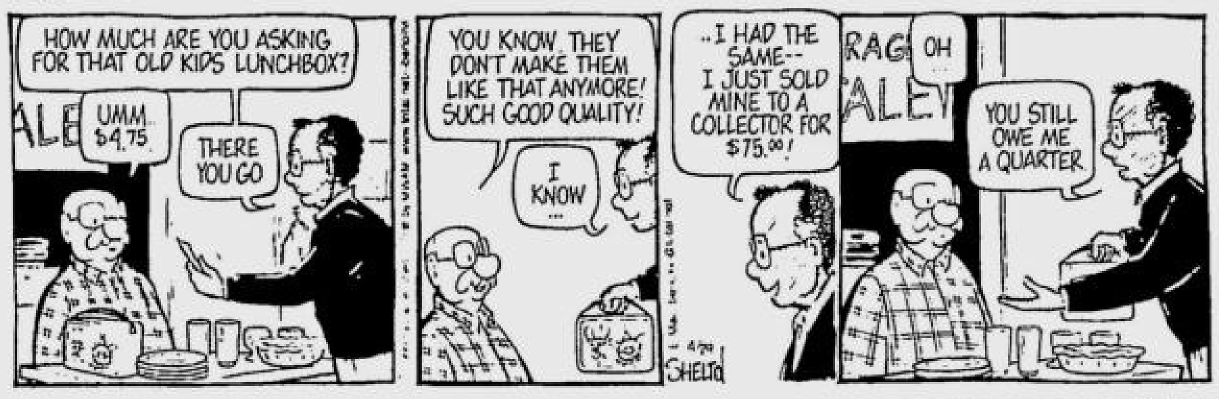
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


DOON TAYO SA MAY TANIMAN!
HINDI KO NA KAYA. IWANAN MO NA AKO, KIKO.
MAY NAISIP AKO, BOGING.
AKIN NA ANG TAPE...!
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.10.2

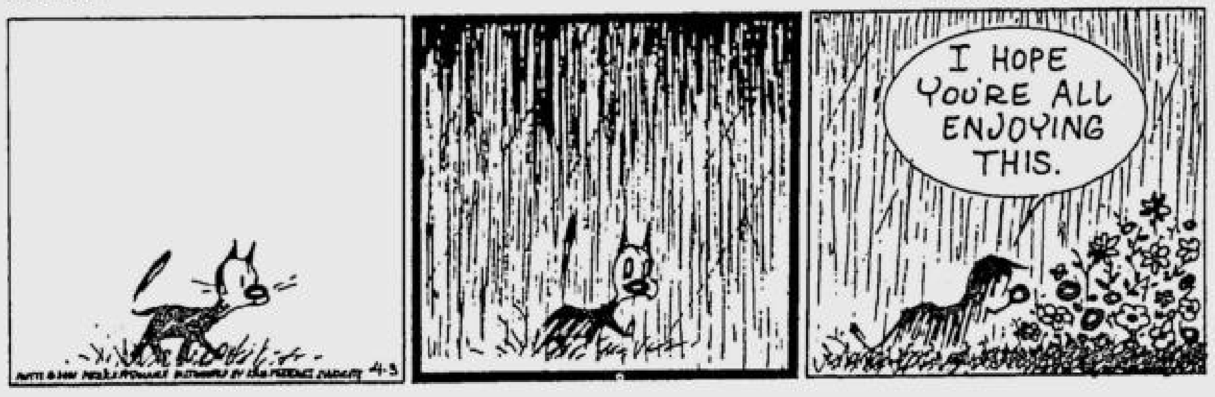
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW MUCH ARE YOU ASKING FOR THAT OLD KIDS LUNCHBOX?
UMM.. $4.75
THERE YOU GO
YOU KNOW, THEY DON'T MAKE THEM LIKE THAT ANYMORE! SUCH GOOD QUALITY!
I KNOW ...
..I HAD THE SAME-- I JUST SOLD MINE TO A COLLECTOR FOR $75.00!
OH
YOU STILL OWE ME A QUARTER
SHELTON

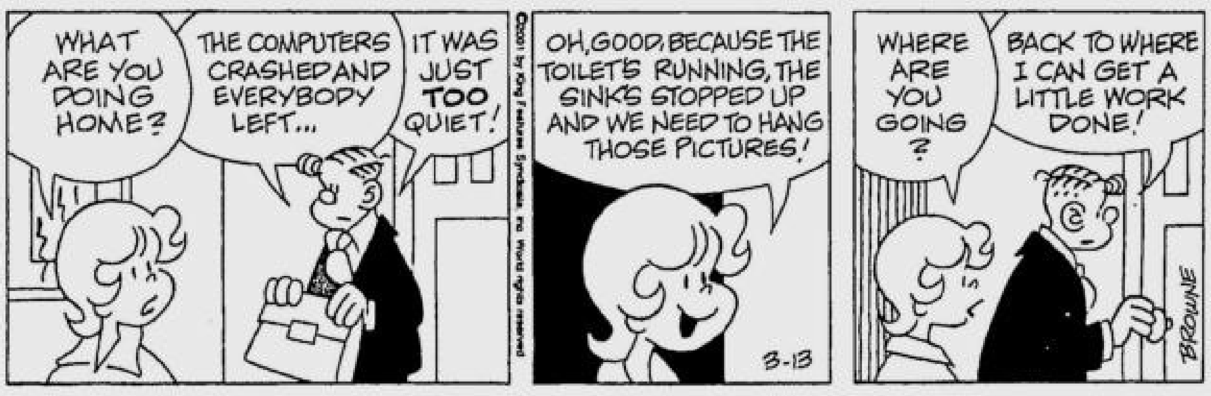
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I HOPE YOU'RE ALL ENJOYING THIS.
4-3

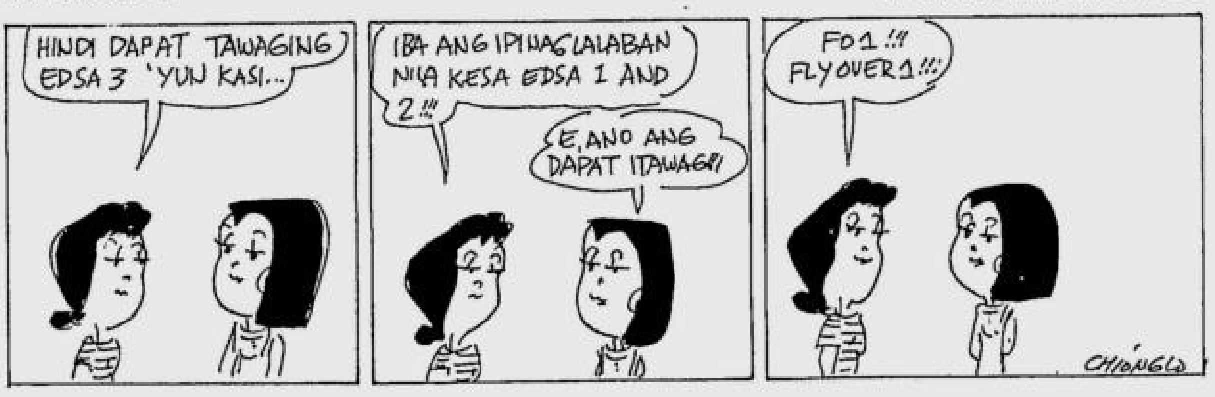
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOME?
THE COMPUTERS CRASHED AND EVERYBODY LEFT...
IT WAS JUST TOO QUIET!
OH, GOOD, BECAUSE THE TOILET'S RUNNING, THE SINK'S STOPPED UP AND WE NEED TO HANG THOSE PICTURES!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BACK TO WHERE I CAN GET A LITTLE WORK DONE!
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
3-13
BROWNE

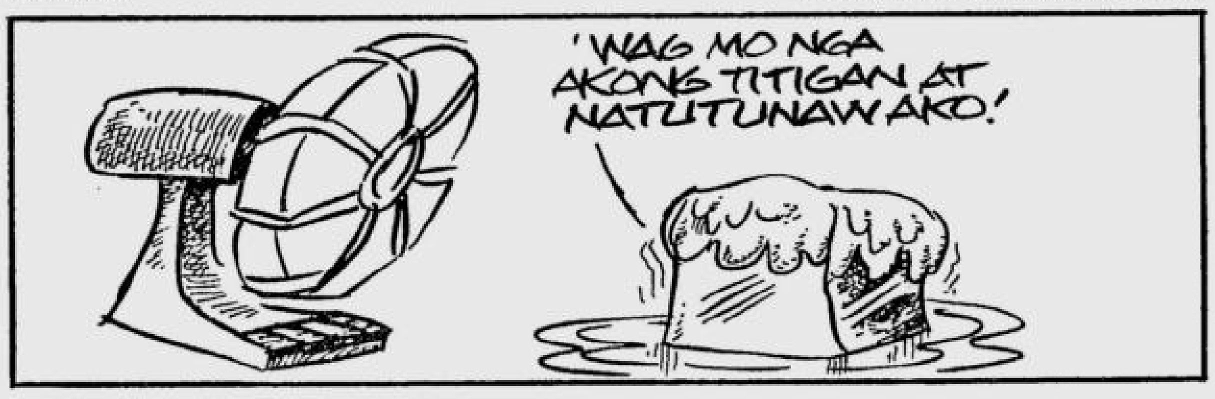
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HINDI DAPAT TAWAGING EDSA 3 'YUN KASI...
IBA ANG IPINAGLALABAN NILA KESA EDSA 1 AND 2!!!
E, ANO ANG DAPAT ITAWAG?!
FO1!!! FLYOVER1!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG MO NGA AKONG TITIGAN AT NATUTUNAW AKO!

Probe of ₱3.7-B CMP fund anomaly urged

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders' Associations (Creba) has urged the Macapagal administration to probe the disposition of the P3.7 billion in Community Mortgage Program funds released just a few weeks prior to the Edsa II in January.

Creba also called on new housing czar Miguel Defensor to institute reforms in the CMP's approval, funding and monitoring procedures to prevent fund misuse and anomalies such as overpricing of lands and spurious deals that would be detrimental to the government and the squatter-beneficiaries of the program.

The recent release of an additional P650 million for the CMP, Creba said, has raised suspicions as to how the earlier P3.7-billion tranche could have been all spent in just 3 months.

Funding program

Creba, gunning for a party-list seat in Congress as an organization of professionals in the housing sector, said that the CMP is a funding program that assists organized squatter communities in acquiring the lands they occupy.

Under this program, Creba said, the government through the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. pays the landowner the lump-sum negotiated price for his squatted land. The organized squatter community then parcels out this land to its individual occupant-members, and collects from them their respective shares in the monthly amortizations, which it then remits to the NHMFC.

Susceptible to anomalies

Creba said that certain program innovations introduced by the previous administration have made CMP transactions highly susceptible to anomalies.

For instance, Creba said, the inclusion in the CMP of "offsite project" funding, i.e. the purchase of unoccupied or nonsquatted lands, goes against the very purpose of the CMP, even as it could serve to dissipate the CMP funds in dubious transactions or indiscriminate land purchases.

It is called Community Mortgage Program precisely because the acquisition of lands thereunder is supposed to be only to help "on-site" squatter communities or those already occupying such lands, to gain security of land tenure, and not for "land banking" or any other purpose, Creba said.

Creba also said that another innovation, i.e. the removal of the requirement imposed by Presidential Decree 957 for Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board registration and licensing of government projects, now makes it extremely difficult to monitor and regulate CMP projects, as well as other government housing projects.

Illegal, prejudicial

This is not only illegal as it contravenes PD 957, but is also highly prejudicial to both the government and the housing beneficiaries, since, it serves to shield transactions from possible prying eyes and thus opens the floodgates to graft and corruption, Creba said.

If project monitoring is essential in the case of privately funded projects, Creba said, it is all the more imperative in the case of government-funded projects, such as the CMP, which are generally more susceptible to nefarious activities.

Creba also stressed that other than helping ensure transparency in the operations of housing agencies, it has no stake in CMP projects since this is largely a government effort.

Creba said that the exemption of CMP projects from HLURB registration and licensing has been alleged by housing officials as necessary to speed up implementation by cutting red tape.

However, Creba said, red tape can be just as easily eliminated in a legal and less suspicious manner, by doing away with unnecessary documentation/requirements and duplicatory bureaucratic processes in project evaluation and approval.

GROUNDBREAKING RITE

Crown Asia chief operating officer Edgardo Santos, marketing head Red Rosales and Jerrick Esguerra lower the capsule as other officials and employees look on during the groundbreaking for Cascades at Cottonwood Heights in Antipolo City. Cascades is a nine-hectare, fenced-in, exclusive estate forming the third phase of Cottonwood Heights with its American countryside ambience. As a portrait of a residential masterpiece, Cascades will feature amenities like a fully equipped clubhouse, jogging trails and a man-made lagoon and park.

Housing project for Bataan gov't employees unveiled

HOUSING and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Mike Defensor recently launched the first-ever housing project for Bataan provincial government employees in Samal, Bataan.

An initiative of the Bataan local government, the 50-hectare Bataan Peninsula Heights housing project will benefit about 7,000 provincial government employees of Bataan.

The Home Development Mutual Fund (or Pag-Ibig Fund) approved the release of P200 million for the project under its LGU development program.

Said Defensor: "The ceremony today just proves how national government agencies can be effective partners of the LGUs (local government units). We are happy that the LGUs are putting up housing projects for their employees. Last Saturday, the President witnessed the signing of a memorandum of agreement between Pag-Ibig and the Pangasinan provincial government, which also aimed to provide housing to Pangasinan local government employees."

ROMAN

Model for other projects

Gov. Leonardo Roman said he expects the housing project to serve as a model for succeeding housing projects in Bataan.

Phase 1 of the Bataan Peninsula Heights housing project will generate 1,134 house and lot packages. Construction will be completed in 13 months. The units cost P180,000 (30 sq. m), P252,000 (42 sq. m) and P324,000 (54 sq. m).

Payment plans

Defensor said the HUDCC has ensured that payment plans for the housing units are within the means of the beneficiaries. "Pag-Ibig will charge fixed interest rates of 9 percent yearly for loans up to P180,000 and 12 percent yearly for loans above P180,000," he added.

The loan is payable in 30 years. The LGU will deduct the monthly payment for the housing loan from the borrower's salary. The LGU will also remit the collections to Pag-Ibig.

Also present during the groundbreaking and launching rites are Bataan Vice Gov. Rogelio Roque, Samal Mayor Gaudencio Ferrer and Pag-Ibig chief executive officer Many Crisostomo.

SUMMER TREAT OR TRICK

The insulation inside story

THE HEAT'S back. And so are crafty businesspeople out to sweet-talk their way to the pockets of unwary customers. Take for example the unscientific testing being conducted by distributors of the aluminum foil with air bubble layer. Placing the foil side by side with a layer of glasswool, they proceeded to beam a light ray onto the two materials. Naturally, the aluminum simply reflected the beam while the glasswool trapped it as it was designed to do. With that done, they decided that the test was finished and concluded that the foil was the better heat insulator because it reflected light.

What they did not say, however, is that their testing method is flawed from the start as they also failed to elaborate on the basic principle of reflectivity. Reflective insulation is only effective when used in conjunction with an air space. The test therefore, pardon the pun, does not reflect the true installed condition of the aluminum foil. Placed right between the roof and the purlins by an added support structure (extra cost of course), the aluminum foil has barely a few inches to reflect light. Thus, it simply absorbs heat before radiating it to the other side—the house's interior. Whatever reflective property it has eventually diminishes as its sheen slowly fades away in a few weeks or so, leaving the poor customer with a useless material, an empty pocket and the heat it wanted to fight.

The aluminum foil with the plastic pockets of air is claimed to be produced using superior state-of-the-art technology. However, it has been around for some time in parking lots everywhere in the country as windshield reflectors. Ironically and deceptively, the product that is lowly regarded in the international market is being touted as a "breakthrough" here in local shores. In the United States where the product was supposedly invented to "protect the Americans from the deadly heat waves," it is more commonly used in cold basements as handy patch up to the gaps and open spaces left out by insulation installation. While on the other hand, glasswool is "the" material specifically required by the US Building Codes for insulation applications.

R-value

While it's true that the supposedly breakthrough product can reflect up to 95 percent of radiant heat, it does not eliminate up to 75 percent of heat in buildings as the distributor claims it does. Radiation is just one of the three forms of heat transfer, the other two being conduction and convection which the product is not designed to contain. The claim of the distributor about his "breakthrough" product's R-value of 15 is exaggerated. R-value is a material's ability to resist heat flow; the higher the R-value the better the insulation capacity. Under similar conditions, the "breakthrough" product has an R-value of only 11.30 hr ft" °F/btu (English unit) while APIC Building Blanket has an R-value of 15.6 hr ft" °F/btu or a comparative differential of 0.444 basis points for every r.

And contrary to insinuations that glasswool sags or disintegrates the moment it is installed, glasswool insulation is built to outlast even the house itself. Even if the roofing system has a leak, glasswool does not store nor absorb moisture because its air spaces allow water to simply evaporate. What's more it does not harbor nor encourage vermin and cockroach.

Furthermore, glasswool is claimed to release trapped heat inside the house during the night resulting in a hotter inside temperature. Basic heat principle will tell you that heat travels from a hot area to a cold area. Naturally, trapped heat will be released outside where it is colder and not inside unless the laws of physics have been inexplicably distorted. Should the interior feel hotter during the night, then look no further than the design of the ceiling because it is supposed to have ventilation holes along the eaves where heat is released continuously.

Health aspects

Another lie being peddled is that glasswool is flammable, and worse, emits fatally toxic fumes. Now before the consumers gets totally confused about what's safe and what is not, glasswool has zero ignitability, zero heat evolved index, zero spread index and zero smoke developed index as ascertained by the Australian Standard (AS) and Underwriter Laboratories (UL). And while the aluminum foil will not catch nor promote fire, its high-density polyethylene air pocket (technical term for high-grade plastic containing air) will burn and emit foul fumes as does any other high-grade plastic material. Healthy isn't it?

Speaking of health, separate tests conducted by the United Nations, International Labor Organizations and the European Union clear glasswool from any health risk including cancer.

Satisfied clientele

The Apic has been in service to the Filipino for over a quarter of a century already both in the residential and industrial fronts. It also has a long list of satisfied clientele in the international market. While it encourages other brands to promote the merits of their products, providing consumers with inaccurate information and unachievable benefits that prevent them from exercising good buying judgment is not tolerated.

The hot summer months call for an effective home insulation. If consumers are not vigilant, they may be in for an unpleasant trick. For a scientifically derived comparative information, consumers may call up the Apic at trunklines (049) 565-2313 or 2222 or at the customer service direct line (049) 565-7113.

9-storey hotel soon to rise in Sta. Rosa

GREENFIELD Development Corp. and Property Partnerships Inc. recently signed an agreement to develop the "Pravia Residence Hotel" at the Sta. Rosa Business Park in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Pravia Residence will be a 9-story structure, 7 of which will be first-class serviced apartment units composed of 105 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units.

It will also have commercial establishments on the ground floor, basement parking, state-of-the art business and recreational facilities as well as advanced telecommunications structure.

The SRBP is developed and managed by the GDC, a quiet yet consistent force in Philippine property development for the last three decades. It is a mixed-use, full-service business district created to act as the focal point for new development in the emerging economic powerhouse known as the Calabarzon.

Investment model

A unique feature of this project is the way it will be developed using the successful "Comunidades" investment model.

Under this model, the PPI will assemble a group of investors and collectively make them the developer of Pravia Residence Hotel. This will effectively eliminate the traditional developer mark-up to allow the units to be purchased at cost, while simultaneously providing strong safeguards against investor risks.

In addition, investors will be able to generate very attractive income on their units by having them operated and managed as a residence hotel (or serviced apartments).

Industrial region

The Calabarzon region, consisting of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, is one of the most dynamic industrial regions in the country.

Over 500 manufacturing and export-oriented companies have found this location ideal and despite the lackluster economy of recent years, the region's business population continues to grow steadily.

This constant expansion has caused a steady rise in demand for adequate lodging for the corporate community, which Pravia Residence Hotel wants to address.

Your Total Solution to any Waterproofing Problem

FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements

SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures

CERAMICOAT
Elastomeric Insulating Paint
For insulating and waterproofing of all types of roofings, walls and floors

from the most trusted name in waterproofing:

CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVE., METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel Nos 252-05-31 up to 32; 252-05-49 up to 51; 252-05-59; Fax No.: 252-05-50
Website: www.campbridge.com

Distributor for Northern Luzon:
DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)
AB Fernandez Ave Dagupan Tel No (075) 523-4113 to 14/522-0477
Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:
CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO., INC.
[illegible] Tel No (032) 254 1511 Fax No (032) 52426

AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

"Now, I want everything to last."

The same is true in Kris Aquino's choice of tiles. Her floor, all covered by Eurotiles, says it all—scratch-free even in the face of son Joshua's roughest toys.

Eurotiles, the tough ceramic tiles, last for a very long time. With over 400 beautiful designs to suit every home, each tile is made using superior European technology for durability and strength.

"Good as forever." Take it from Kris.

EUROTILES
SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
Styled to last.

Eurotiles Industrial Corporation Diplomat Building, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City Tel. 551-1077 Fax 832-3079

CERAMIC PLAZA

(4"X8") 10 X 20 cm P 3.90/pc.*
(8"X8") 20 X 20 cm P 7.60/pc.*
(12"X12") 30 X 30 cm P17.40/pc.*
(16"X16") 40 X 40 cm P38.00/pc.*
*METRO MANILA SALE PRICE

AVAILABLE AT ALL BRANCHES

LOWEST PRICED IMPORTED TILES

OPENING SALE!
E. RODRIGUEZ AVE. BRANCH
113 E. RODRIGUEZ AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
TEL. 732-1906

BANAWE
NODALOS
PETRON
ARANETA AVE.
TO ESPAÑA
E. RODRIGUEZ AVENUE
TO CUBAO
PCSO COMPOUND
QUEZON INSTITUTE

DTI NCR Permit No.A3-227 Series of 2001

METRO MANILA BRANCHES

MANILA
1607 J. Abad Santos Ave.
263 2027 / 263 0500

SUCAT
8200 Dr. A. Santos Ave.
826-5417

PASAY
811 EDSA
833-5610 / 834-7637

TAYTAY
Bldg. 3 SEB Comm'l. Ctr.
Ortigas Ave. Ext. / 284-1211

LAS PIÑAS
319 Real St. Talon I,
Alabang Zapote Rd.
588-9242

MARCOS HI-WAY
[illegible]
J & F Bldg., Masinag,
Marcos Highway
Antipolo, Rizal
878-0692

PASIG
Along Ortigas Ave.,
Rosario
642-2828 / 916-1643

ALABANG
Estrellita Bldg. Unit 2&3
Alabang Zapote Road
850-7088

QUEZON AVENUE
27 20 HIZON BLDG.
731-1300

MUNTINLUPA
Christ The King Bldg.
Tunasan, Muntinlupa
861 1775

KARUHATAN
UNIT 2 #213
McArthur Hi-way
291-5271

ALMANZA, LP (In front of SM Southmall) Lot 7, Alabang Zapote Rd., Bgy. Almanza, Las Piñas City
Tels. 801-7152 • 800-7131 • 800-7132 • 800-7134
MUÑOZ 1207 EDSA 372-4887 • 372-1583 OPEN DAILY UP TO 7:00 pm

EUROTILES
HCG
Saveflush

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES

MEYCAUAYAN
JP Hermoso Bldg.,
MacArthur Hi-way,
Bo. Banga
(044) 840-0348

TURO, BOCAUE
573 Arcadia Bldg.,
F. Halili hi-way
(044) 692 6104

GUIGUINTO
UNIT COE Cundangan
Bldg., Tuktukan
(044) 690-0608

MALOLOS
King Willard Comm'l. Cmplx.
Km. 44 McArthur Hi-way
Longos (044) 662 1659

BALIUAG
DRT Hi-way
(044) 673 3595
(044) 673-0445

ANGELES
Sta. Ester Bldg.
833 Henson St.
(045) 887-4811
(045) 888 3448

TARLAC
San Sebastian,
McArthur Hi-way
(045) 800-0212

ALL BRANCHES OPEN DAILY 8:30AM TO 5:30PM

DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE Km. 37 Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 416-3743

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

'Edsa III' bolsters negative perception in property sector

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

DEPRESSED.

The mood of office space relocation activities for January to March this year was described just like that—gloomy—especially if compared to the same period last year. FPDSavills Research still attributes this to the political crisis that rocked the country from October to December 2000, saying many corporations withheld plans of relocating during the first quarter of 2001.

Though the latest FPDSavills research report dated January to March 2001 indicated a downtrend compared to the same period of last year, the report seemed to be the portent of things to come.

FPDSavills associate director for research Benedicto Miranda revealed that corporate executives FPDSavills officials were talking to were looking at the month of May as the barometer for deciding whether to expand or not. When the so-called "Edsa III" took place during the final days of April and on May 1, expansion plans seemed to be pushed more on the "hold" status, as the perception on political stability became more negative. Miranda did not elaborate further.

Miranda, who stressed he wouldn't want to become a prophet of doom, cited that the repercussions of the rioters' attack of Malacañang are being taken seriously now.

"Manila is not the investment hub for now," he added. "For now," he stressed.

Focus on 'relocation'

Office space activities, he predicted, would focus more on "relocation" rather than attending to "new demands," as the latter remains stagnant with the oversupply of office space vacancies that has recently characterized CBD (central business district) locations.

But it may not be all that gloomy. The search for better quality office space in the Grade A office sector continues for some companies. Major movers have been firms involved in financial intermediation, real estate and renting, transportation, storage and communications, and manufacturing.

Movers for Grade B and C offices in Makati for March 2001, meanwhile, were companies involved in community and social services, financial intermediation, real estate and other small-scale industries. In Ortigas, movers were involved in community and social services, wholesale and retail and real estate sectors.

"Though some companies decided to withhold any relocation plans, others are capitalizing on such plans because the rents are down, values are down. It makes sense to move now," said Miranda.

Office space take-up

The total office space take-up (increasing demand) for March 2001, for instance, was pegged at about 16,297 sq. m compared to March 2000's 29,000 sq. m. February 2001's 12,658 sq.-m-office-space take-up was down compared to February 2000's 17,000 sq. m. January 2001's 27,000 sq. m pales in comparison to last year's 33,000 sq. m.

Eighty percent of March 2001's total office space take-up was recorded from the Makati Central Business District, with the balance coming from the Ortigas CBD. FPDSavills Research revealed that although Makati registered a 60-percent increase in take-up last March compared to February, the figure was still about 80 percent lower than the take-up figure for March 2000.

FPDSavills research further noted that Grade A office space take-up increased by 42 percent in both Makati and Ortigas CBDs compared with February 2001's 8,777 sq. m.

New movers for the Grade A offices included Clements Consultant Inc, Jardine Lloyd Thompson, PBCom Corporate Business Center, Enterworks Philippines Inc., New York Life Insurance Phils., Tritron Securities, Int'l Distillers Philippines, PBCom Tower, LKG Tower, Enterprise Center and RCBC Plaza.

Rental rates

FPDSavills research pegged the rental rates to remain at the P500 to P550 per sq. m level in the Makati CBD and P300 to P350 in the Ortigas CBD. The opening of RCBC Plaza and PBCom Tower could bring down rental levels further.

Grade B and C will decline principally to hold on to their tenants, since Grade A rentals have gone down to the B level. An option for other local businesses, said Miranda, would be to decentralize their locations outside of the two CBDs in Makati and Ortigas.

Standardization of housing seen as cost-saving step

STANDARDS in housing will be set by the government shelter sector to reduce cost in housing construction, said Mike Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

Defensor, keynoting the seminar-workshop on housing standardization sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, identified Wednesday five initial measures the HUDCC will carry out toward housing standardization.

These measures include the following:

- Adoption of standard application forms and documentary requirements for housing loan applications.
- Review of housing standards for low-cost subdivision and condominium projects.
- Harmonizing the standardization initiatives of other agencies that may affect the housing sector.
- Adoption of a common standard for measurement.
- Adoption of modularly coordinated dimensions as a system for space planning of housing projects in general and housing components in particular.

DEFENSOR

Defensor hopes the adoption of these measures "will not only result in higher profits for contractors and developers, but also lower prices for potential homeowners." He enjoined the PCCI to work hand in hand with the housing sector in improving housing standards while maintaining affordability.

You're an Electrical Expert

You're in good company with engineers, architects, contractors, developers and other fire professionals who trust only **EAGLE** superior quality electrical & wiring devices for safety, reliability and durability.

EAGLE ELECTRIC

Fuses / Fluorescent Starters / Lampholders / Switches / Plugs
Receptacles / Detecto-lite / Soldering Paste / Outlets / Wall Plates

CERTIFIED Product Quality

WARNING: BEWARE OF IMITATIONS!

Party List system: For the marginalized only

BY CHARLIE V. GOYAREB

SOME candidates and their supporters have viciously attacked Creba (Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association) for participating in the party list, and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for allowing it.

They claim that the party list is only for the "marginalized and underrepresented" sectors, and therefore Creba should not be part of it because it represents big business and the elite, it is profit-motivated and so on.

These claims are totally without basis.

Creba has every right under the law and the Constitution to participate in the party list. Under the Constitution, the party-list system is open to all parties and sectors, without distinction as to whether or not they are marginalized. The proposal to reserve the party list exclusively for the marginalized sectors was unanimously voted down by the Constitutional Commission. And the proposal to lift the 3-term limitation—within which 50 percent of the allocated party-list seats in Congress were reserved for the marginalized, purely as a constitutional "gift"—was similarly voted down by the Concom.

Thus, under the Constitution Creba's participation cannot be subject of the question. The same is true under the Party-List Law—under which the professional sector, to which Creba belongs, is one of the specifically enumerated sectors whose participation the Comelec is required to allow.

Who is in a better position to help the marginalized? The legal issues aside, however, is it correct to say that only the marginalized can ever have concern for, or can effectively pursue, the interest and welfare of the marginalized? Is it correct to say that only a paraplegic can or should help the paraplegic?

Our national hero Jose Rizal himself was not part of the "marginalized." Neither were our country's luminaries such as Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada, Jovito Salonga, Ninoy Aquino and many others who sacrificed so much to champion the cause of the marginalized.

Neither is our incumbent President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo marginalized. And neither are many of the present detractors of Creba, who now allege themselves to be the champions of the marginalized.

The marginalized are marginalized precisely because they lack the capability—economic or otherwise—to lift themselves out of their present circumstances. They need all the help they can get, from anyone willing to help.

And who would be in a better position to help, if not those whose nonmarginalized circumstances allow them the luxury to dedicate time, effort, capability and resources to come up with the proper solutions to the problems plaguing the marginalized?

It would indeed be ideal if, for instance, the homeless poor know the ramifications of housing, enough for them to be able to come up with proper solutions to the squatting problem, or to build millions of decent dwellings for their equally poor homeless brethens.

It would also be ideal if the unemployed and underemployed know enough of business and economics to figure out how to improve the economy so that they can be assured of a continual source of adequate income and lower prices of goods and services.

But until that ideal is attained, it would be the height of arrogance, selfishness and irresponsibility for the alleged representatives or champions of the marginalized to reject or attempt to block the efforts of the nonmarginalized to help the marginalized.

Creba has amply served the interest of the marginalized. Though Creba is nonmarginalized, its initiatives and advocacies over the past 27 years have been consistently focused not just on the interest of its members, but more on enabling the millions of homeless families to acquire their own decent homes.

Creba's achievements in this regard are too many to mention, but its detractors would do well to check the public records before they make false or derogatory claims against Creba.

Then they will perhaps realize that the marginalized have benefited greatly from Creba's selfless efforts, which led to the creation of the NHA and Pag-Ibig, the passage of the Social Housing Law, the 20-percent Social Housing Quota under Republic Act 7279 and the social housing finance measures under RA 7835, among others.

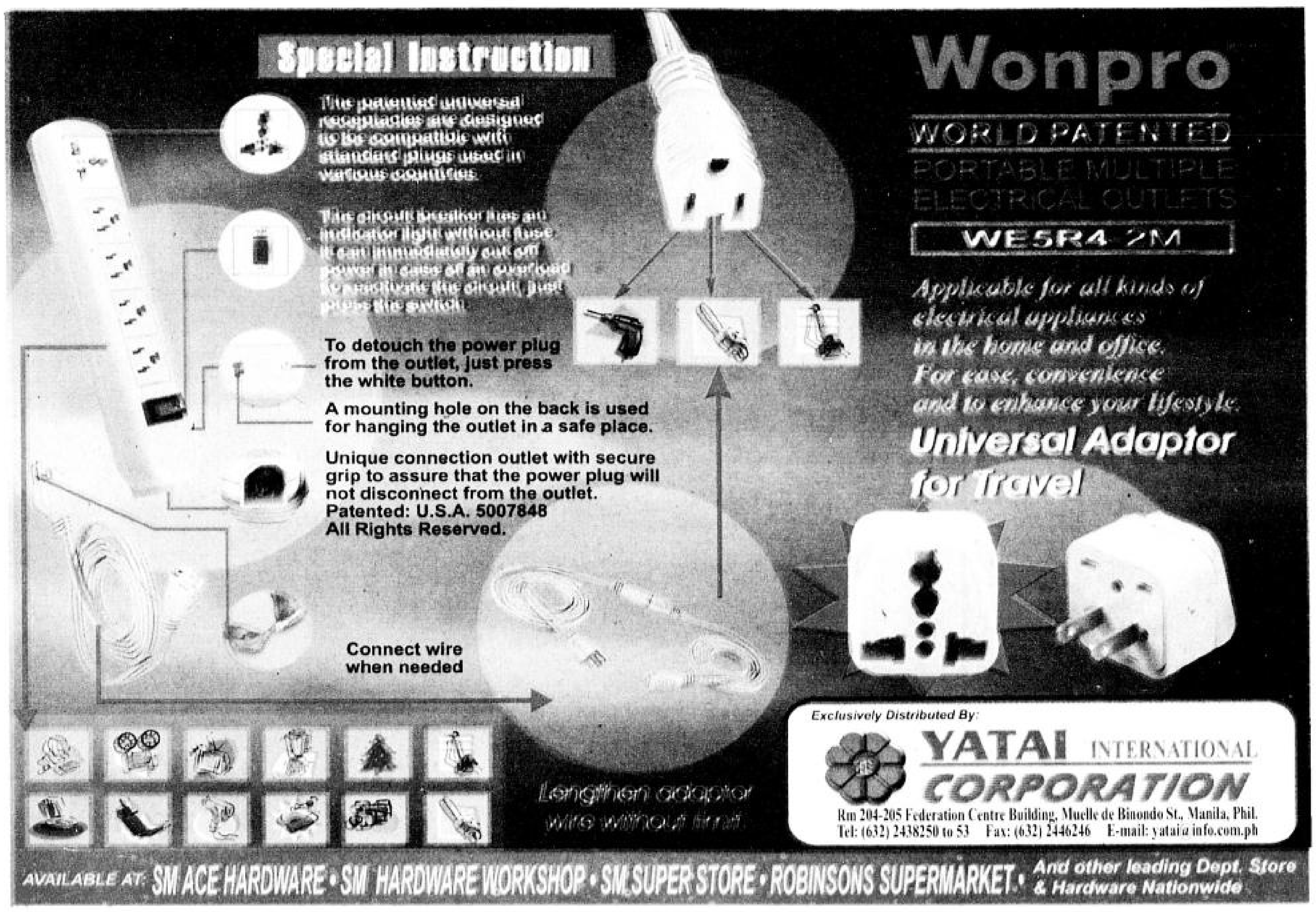
Can Creba's detractors claim to have achieved more?

Creba's legislative agenda is for all the marginalized and the entire nation. It is designed not only to solve the critical housing problem, but also to create millions of jobs for the unemployed in both urban and rural areas, to generate billions of pesos of revenues for the government, and to pump-prime the economy toward recovery and growth. The agenda includes:

- The establishment of a permanent, low-interest homebuyer financing program for all homeless families whether or not members of the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System or Pag-Ibig, with enough funds to finance at least P500,000 socialized and low-income housing units per year for the next 20 years, without need of government subsidy.
- A legislated cap on bank lending rates comparable to the old Anti-Usury Law, but supported with a package of tax exemptions to maintain the viability of the banking system. This will mean lower production costs for businesses, and price stability of all goods and services.
- A legislated increase in minimum wages, simultaneous with the cap on lending rates, to improve the peso's purchasing power, raise effective demand and thus spur greater production, and implant the beginnings of a strong and healthy middle class. The cost savings that will result from the reduction in interest rates will enable businesses to sustain this wage increase.
- The regulation of the foreign exchange rate and foreign portfolio investments, which will stabilize the peso and prevent severe economic dislocations.

In the light of all these, can Creba's detractors still claim a greater right under the law or Constitution—or better credentials to pursue the cause of the marginalized—than Creba, in seeking a party-list seat in Congress?

(Goyareb is the national president of Creba)


Special Instruction

The patented universal receptacles are designed to be compatible with standard plugs used in various countries.

The circuit breaker has an indicator light without fuse. It can immediately cut off power in case of an overload. To reactivate the circuit, just press the switch.

To detouch the power plug from the outlet, just press the white button.

A mounting hole on the back is used for hanging the outlet in a safe place.

Unique connection outlet with secure grip to assure that the power plug will not disconnect from the outlet.
Patented: U.S.A. 5007848
All Rights Reserved.

Connect wire when needed

Lengthen adaptor wire without limit.

Wonpro
WORLD PATENTED
PORTABLE MULTIPLE ELECTRICAL OUTLETS
WE5R4-2M

Applicable for all kinds of electrical appliances in the home and office. For ease, convenience and to enhance your lifestyle.

Universal Adaptor for Travel

Exclusively Distributed By:
YATAI INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
Rm 204-205 Federation Centre Building, Muelle de Binondo St., Manila, Phil.
Tel: (632) 2438250 to 53 Fax: (632) 2446246 E-mail: yatai@info.com.ph

AVAILABLE AT: SM ACE HARDWARE • SM HARDWARE WORKSHOP • SM SUPER STORE • ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET • And other leading Dept. Store & Hardware Nationwide

American Standard passes ISO surveillance audit

AMERCIAN Standard, one of the world's leading manufacturers of water closets, bathroom fixtures and other lavatory products, affirms its commitment to quality by passing another surveillance audit required to maintain its ISO 9002 certification.

Certified with the highest international recognition of excellence in quality for a year, American Standard has consistently complied with the strict requirements of ISO for the assurance of its customers.